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Thailand Hosts Mekong River Committee Meeting

Cambodia's Hor Namhong on Membership

BK1303113492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, held talks with Thai Deputy Foreign Minister H.E. Wichian Watthanakhun at the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the afternoon of 11 March. Also present were Mr. Ung Kiet, representative of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]; Pen Thol, representative of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and a representative of Democratic Kampuchea. On the Thai side, also present were H.E. Sunai Bunyasiriphan, Thai permanent representative to Cambodia, and several other delegation members.

During the talks, both discussed a number of remaining issues concerning the return of Cambodia to the original Mekong Committee of 1957-1978 and examined the restructuring of the Mekong Committee to include Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Burma, and China—countries adjacent to the Mekong River.

The two sides have not yet agreed on the inclusion of Cambodia in both the original and restructured committees. This question will be raised again at a meeting to be held in Thailand on 15 March and attended by four countries. After that, on 16 March, another meeting will be opened to further discuss the Mekong Committee with the participation of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Burma, and China.

SRV Envoy Comments on Talks

BK1303020192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] Thailand will go ahead with an informal meeting of Mekong Basin states next week to discuss future cooperation, despite the absence of some countries, Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakun said.

Burma and Cambodia have accepted Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's invitation to attend the meeting on March 15-16, but Laos, Vietnam and China have still not replied, Wichian said on his return from Phnom Penh on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung yesterday urged Thailand to put aside pending differences and fulfil the primary objective of reactivating the Mekong Committee as soon as possible.

"Vietnam has proposed the meeting of the Interim Mekong Committee plus Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) to reactivate the Mekong Committee as soon as possible; other things would be discussed later by the full membership," said Trung quoting Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's letter to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun dated Feb 26.

Trung said Vietnam understood Thailand's concerns and is prepared to listen to whatever points are raised with the view "to achieve agreement on the basis of respect for the interests of all member countries sharing both the upper and lower Mekong Basin."

However, the ambassador did not indicate that Vietnam would send a delegation to attend the proposed meeting.

According to the Thai-proposed plan, the March 15 meeting is for informal consultations among lower Mekong states—Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam—to settle the question of how Cambodia should be reincluded in the group, while the March 16 meeting will consist of informal consultations between lower-basin states and China and Burma which are the only upstream nations.

Informed sources said Vietnam's reluctance to attend the meeting was politically motivated. "We don't understand why they did not agree to the Thai proposal. It is Cambodia that should be worried if any irrational points were found in the proposal, but it isn't," said the sources involved in the negotiations.

The sources said Thailand had made it clear that the proposed meeting would be on a noncommittal and non-binding basis that would allow room for discussion before proceeding to the plenary meeting of the Mekong Committee.

The plenary session, previously set for February, was postponed due to disagreements over how Cambodia should be readmitted to the committee and consequently prompted Thailand to unilaterally propose the informal consultation among the four riparian states.

During his one-day visit to Phnom Penh, Wichian paid a courtesy call on SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk to deliver a letter from Anan. He also met with leaders of Cambodia's four major factions.

Wichian said Sihanouk and the other Cambodian leaders agreed to send their representatives, united under the SNC, to Bangkok for the meeting.

"They accepted our invitation with a good understanding of the situation," Wichian said.

Wichian said Thailand continued to maintain its position that the Mekong Committee, which would be automatically reactivated with the inclusion of Cambodia, follow the procedural rules of the Interim Mekong Committee in order to keep the already-approved projects on course.

"It is very logical and internationally accepted that the newcomer should follow the procedures of the current committee," Wichian said.

The Vietnamese envoy declined to respond directly to whether Hanoi would agree to the Interim Committee rules pending revisions to the basic document which was worked out in 1957. "Hanoi's position is that it is open to negotiation," said Trung.

"My government continues to recognize all documents signed in the past," said the envoy.

He added that Hanoi also recognized the merits of the Interim Committee which was by far one of the most successful of regional organizations. "It is a rare organization in the sense that it could work under the strained relations between Thailand on one side and the three communist states on the other at that time," he said.

The envoy regarded the current dispute as a "temporary difference" born out of differing points of view.

"Thailand wants to restructure the committee at once to meet the new needs and developments in the region," he said.

SRV Declines To Attend

BK1403115792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Today, 14 March, our Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the following statement on the Mekong River Committee:

After unilaterally announcing the suspension of a plenary meeting between the Interim Mekong Committee and the SNC [Supreme National Council] scheduled for 17-20 February 1992 in Chiang Rai, the Thai side proposed an informal ministerial meeting of six riparian countries of the Mekong River on 16 March 1992 and an earlier consultative meeting of four countries of the lower Mekong River on Sunday 15 March 1992.

On this issue, our Foreign Ministry spokesman is authorized to issue a statement as follows:

Vietnam unswervingly asserts its desire to intensify cooperation to harmoniously ensure the interests of all countries, members of the Mekong Committee, and other countries involved. Vietnam maintains that Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam as members of the Interim Mekong Committee are responsible for implementing Point Three in the statement on establishing the Interim Mekong River Committee which was signed on 5 January 1978. It clearly specified: The Interim Mekong River Committee will take over from the Mekong River Committee once all members of this committee have decided to participate in this organization. With Prince Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, sending a letter on 24 June 1991 to request official participation of the SNC in the activities of the Mekong River Committee, it is incontestable that the Mekong River Committee of four country members resume operation.

Hor Namhong, an SNC member, in an interview by SPK on 11 March, clearly pointed out that Cambodia has the right to rejoin the Mekong River Committee. This is not an imploration. In this spirit, Vietnam welcomes an early meeting of four countries of the lower Mekong River within the framework of the Mekong River Committee to carry out the aforementioned issue and to debate and solve all problems related thereto, including the organization and operation of the committee in the future.

However, as of the afternoon of 13 March, the Thai side still failed to give clear information on the nature and agenda of the meeting that they planned to hold on 15-16 March. As a result, Vietnam cannot make a timely decision to attend the aforementioned meeting.

The four countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam and the Mekong secretariat should make urgent preparations to unanimously agree on the nature, purpose, and agenda of the meeting before the meeting can be held to bring the Mekong Committee back to operation in conformity with the aspirations of the riparian countries and with the cooperative trend in Southeast Asia, and to respond to the expectations of those countries that have provided financial aid to the committee.

Delegates Agree To Consider Restructuring

BK1703015392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] Chief delegates to the informal meeting of Mekong-basin states, including those from China and Burma, yesterday agreed to submit Thailand's proposal to restructure the 35-year-old Mekong Committee to their respective governments for consideration.

However, the question of Cambodia's status, which must be settled before extending membership of the committee to China and Burma, remained to be solved among the four original members—Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Laotian Vice Minister for Economic Relations Kithong Wongsi told THE NATION at the end of the two-day meeting that the concept of restructuring the Mekong Committee, as proposed by Thailand, was accepted by all participants as it corresponded to the current climate of political and economic development in the region.

According to the Thai proposal, the Lower Mekong Basin and the Upper Mekong Basin are inseparable and form an integral ecosystem. As such, any developmental efforts of the Mekong mainstream and any formulation of rules and regulations for the use of water resources should involve all riparian states of the Mekong.

The restructuring would be based on the cardinal principle of equitable and resonable utilization of water and related resources in the Mekong River, while respecting the national sovereignty and equity of States on the basis of mutual accommodation.

Kithong, who headed Laotian delegation of the two-day meeting, said all parties needed to take the proposal back to their respective governments for scrutinizing.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakun yesterday refused to comment on the result of the meeting.

Informal Thai sources said the meeting exchanged views on the future of Mekong Committee, and head delegates from Burma and China delivered statements supporting the Thai concept of restructuring the committee to include them.

The sources said China and Burma also supported the convening of a second informal meeting of all Mekong-basin states to further discuss the restructuring.

Asked if Vietnam, which boycotted this first meeting, would agree to attend the second, the sources said Thailand planned to further explain its proposals to that country.

However, they said if Hanoi still rejected the proposal, it was their own problem.

Growth of Asian Satellite Industry Viewed

BK1503102192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 92 p A10

[Text] The region's entry into what seems certain to be a period of explosive growth for services carried by satellites is putting stars in the eyes of Asia-Pacific governments and entrepreneurs—and beckoning to businesses based far beyond its earthly shores.

Home to more than half of the global population, the nations within the area have diverse cultures and standards of living. But almost all have come sharply to realize that with telecommunications changing the way the world works, they must sign up for the future now or risk an economic eclipse that could last into the next century.

The average cost of a new satellite is currently around US$70 million, yet at least 17 will be launched for regional owner-operators within the next six years.

Like the hundred other communications craft already in space, they will be sited along an invisible ring, exactly 35,786 kilometres above the equator, where they will move at the same speed that Earth rotates and thus appear to hover over the same spot at all times.

This geostationary orbit puts their transponders—the key electronic component of satellites—in an ideal position to receive, amplify and retransmit signals from and to the ground.

With such countries as Japan, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong today offering advanced telecommunications services on a par with those of the most sophisticated centres in the world, Asia Pacific demand for transponders is already oustripping the available supply. Yet these needs are small compared to the potential requirements of China, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Philippines and Burma, which contain vast areas where even devices as simple as telephones and televisions are still longed-four luxuries.

Until quite recently, some governments in the region were reluctant, for political or commercial reasons, to relinquish their tight control of the means of communication.

By joining the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intelsat), which is still by far the world's biggest owner of these space-craft, they obtained the exclusive rights to use its facilities for feeding international transmissions into existing ground-based networks.

Run by a board of governors nominated by its 121 member states, whose financial contributions to the organization are set on the basis of the extent to which they use its facilities, Intelsat has done more than any other body to create a global satellite communications system.

It currently has eight craft in orbit over the Indian and Pacific oceans and it is these which carry most of the region's international telephone calls and TV transmissions, as well as proving the essential link in financial trading, news and other networks.

While the Intelsat arrangements have served well for many years, the global drive towards spurring economic growth by putting national resources into private sector hands has also led to both deregulation of the telecommunications sector and burgeoning demands for its services.

This is opening the Asia-Pacific market to local and foreign entrepreneurs who are queuing up to provide the new links the area needs. All that they require to fulfill their ambitions, or lose their money, is access to more satellites.

The biggest breakthrough so far in eroding Intelsat's hold on the region has occurred in Hong Kong. The British territory is the home of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Co (in which Cable and Wireless plc of the UK, the Hutchison Whampoa conglomerate of Hong Kong and the mainland-owned China International Trust and Investment Corp each has a one-third stake) that launched Asia's first privately financed regional satellite in April 1990.

Asia Sat 1 has 24 transponders and its electronic footprints cover a vast region stretching from Japan in the east to Egypt in the west and from Siberia in the north to Indonesia in the south. All its transponders are now leased and its owners will shortly buy a second satellite.

Some of what is today provided via the existing unit illustrate what is in store for the region in the future. Eleven of its transponders are being used to provide the first Asia-wide TV service.

Star TV, as the five-channel network is called, is owned by Hutch Vision, a 50:50 joint venture between Hutchison Whampoa, chaired by local billionaire Li Kashing, and a privately held company controlled by Li's family.

Less well known is that Asia Sat 1 is making possible the creation of sophisticated new private communications networks. It is alrady being used in Malaysia to link 10 provincial centres into a high-speed data network which allows subscribers to solicit business, place orders, effect payment for goods and to gain access to a selection of international databases via their personal computers.

The Palapa satellites, owned and operated by the Indonesian government, are facilitating similar services. Last year, Samart Stocklink, a private company in Thailand, launched a two way link that enables the Stock Exchange of Thailand to send trading information to brokers throughout the country, receive brokers' orders and confirm transactions via Palapa B2P. The same craft is also to be used for a voice and video communications network linking 40 cities in the Philippines.

Satellite companies guard what they charge to rent transponders with excessive zeal, but the annual bill for one of the non-Intelsat units serving the region is put at between US$1-$1.5 million.

With AsiaSat 1 and with clients scrambling to get aboard the two Palapa satellites, plus a third that is due to be launched later this year, prices are likely to remain high in the near future. In the longer term, however, they should start coming down as a host of new craft, designed to provide both national and regional services, come into operation.

Japan's Space Communication Corps (SCC) was due to see the first of its new two Superbird satellites blast off from Arianespace's pad at Kourou in French Guinea in late February. The second is to be launched by the same company at the end of this year.

The pair are replacements for those that SCC lost in 1990, just as it was establishing itself in business.

The initial Superbird stopped operating while in orbit in February of that year, and the other was destroyed during an Arianespace launch that failed.

The Japan Communications Satellite Co is meanwhile in the process of deciding whether to order a third craft to join the two it now has in orbit, and the Satellite Japan Corp, the nation's newest entrant to the communications business, already has plans to order two units.

All three companies will lease transponders on the new satellites to a variety of corporate users, TV broadcasters and government agencies.

Nineteen ninety-five will see the launch for Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp (NTT), Japan's demestic communications carrier, of two satellites to be built by Space Systems-Loral of the United States, which will also be responsible for getting them skyward. These units will replace two put up in 1988, and be used for telephone calls, maintaining date links and providing mobile communications services throughout Japan.

NHK, the state broadcasting organization, is also in the process of ordering a satellite to take the place of one that was lost in April 1990, after a U.S. Atlas rocket carrying it into space had to be destroyed shortly after lift-off. Its substitute is to be launched in 1994, and will act as a backup to two other NHK craft already in orbit.

Much to the annoyance of Japanese satellite operators interested in entering the Asian regional market, their country's law limits them to providing purely domestic services. Nor has the fact that Tokyo's TV transmission can be received as far away as South Korea and Taiwan done anything so far to persuade the regulators to loosen up.

South Korea will have its first two telecommunications satellites—the transponders on which will be leased to companies that plan to provide communications and broadcasting services within the country—in operation by 1995.

They have been ordered by the state-owned Korea Telecom from GE Astro Space of the United States under a contract that includes provision for satellite-building technology and skills to be transferred to the country. It should thus be eventually able to fulfil its ambitions to manufacture, operate and launch its own craft.

In Thailand, Chinnawat Computer and Communications, which is listed on the local stock exchange, has ordered two satellites from America's Hughes Space and Communications Group. The first will be launched in 1993 by Arianespace and the second the following year.

Some of the 24 transponders on the units will be used by entities within the Chinnawat group, while others will be marketed to companies and government agencies in Thailand and to those in neighbouring Burma, Laos and Malaysia. The total cost of the project is expected to be US$188 million.

Malaysia's recently formed Binariang company has also placed an order for two satellites from Hughes. These will be used to provide communications and other services to the Kuala Lumpur concern which will also offer them to entities in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Brunei. The first of the satellites is expected to be launched by Arianespace in 1994.

Indonesia will see the launch of its new McDonnell Douglas satellite in June. The Palapa B4 will be used mainly for the domestic services which are now carried by Palapa B2P.

The spare capacity on this older craft will be used to deliver the Asia-Pacific regional programming of Cable News Network (CNN), the ESPN Internatidonal sports channel and Home Box Office, all of which are headquarteredd in the United States. Business News Network of Hong Kong, which is planning a regional satellite-TV business and financial news service, also hopes to use Palapa B2P. Indonesia could still order yet another satellite this year.

Hong Kong's AsiaSat consortium will make its second purchase during 1992. The new unit will have 28 transponders and cover the same enormous area as AsiaSat 1—plus most of eastern and western Europe.

Australia became the first-ever purchaser of Hughes' powerful new HS601 satellites in July 1988 when two of these units were ordered by Aussat, a state-owned undertaking that was recently bought by Optus Communications when the three-nation consortium won the bid to form the country's second telecommunications carrier.

The first satellite is due to blast off from China this month with the second to follow around October. They will replace Aussat's two existing units which carry programming for Australia's TV networks and a range of other domestic and trans-Tasman voice and data services. In addition, this second generation of craft will provide new satellite-TV channels and mobile communications services.

While this buying binge suggests companies and governments in the region are in the midst of a serious bout of satellite fever, that is by no means all of the story.

Waiting in the wings are a clutch of US entrepreneurial endeavours with plans to launch services that will link North America with Asia Pacific and also provide coverage within the region.

Only one of them so far is open for business. Columbia Communications Corp of Washington has the rights to lease out 24 transponders on two satellites that are used by the U.S. space agency NASA for its own communications. One of these is in orbit over the Pacific and the other over the Atlantic.

TRW Space and Technology Group of the United States has signed up to rent, for six years, several of the 12 transponders on the Pacific unit which can provide services between the United States and centres in Asia stretching northwards from Hong Kong. It can also furnish links to Europe via the Atlantic satellite of its own over the Pacific in 1995.

Another U.S. company, Alpha Lyracom, has even more ambitious plans. It intends to create a worldwide satellite network that will compete with Intelsat. The company recently placed orders with Hughes for three satellites, two of which will serve the Asia-Pacific area from orbits over the Pacific and Indian oceans.

The network will also have two craft over the Atlantic, one of which is already in operation, and is expected to be up and running by the end of 1994. Alpha Lyracom's executives believe access to a private enterprise global system, unencumbered by bureaucracy, will ignite explosive growth in the use of satellite communications.

The third serious contender from the United States is a company called Unicom, which hopes to have two satellites over the Pacific by 1995. It has a preliminary agreement with the Fairchild Space and Defence Corp of the United States to provide the units.

And there are several more entrepreneurial companies in the United States talking about launching Pacific satellites, though none has reached the stage of placing an order with a manufacturer.

Even the plans of the three with the most apparently promising prospects could founder if they are unable to come up with the financing that is required to get the craft into orbit.

Meanwhile, enter Motorola Inc of the United States, one of two serious contenders bidding to have the first mobile phone system with global reach up and running before the end of the century.

In this 2001 view of the world, subscribers using handheld telephones would be able to make and take calls, via satellites, to and from anywhere in the world—no matter how remote.

A hefty US$3 billion is being put into developing the Motorola approach, dubbed Iridium, which involves a constellation of 77 satellites moving around Earth in low orbits that will take them over both the North and South Poles.

The company is seeking partners from across the planet to join a consortium that will own and operate the satellites. In Asia, Hutchison Telecoms, a subsidiary of Hong Kong's Hutchison Whampoa, has already announced its intention of becoming a member of the group; other participants from the region are expected to be announced this year.

An alternative system is being planned by the London-based International Maritium Satellite Organization (Inmarsat). It has not yet decided what type of satellite constellation to use, but is studying the use of geostationary orbits, low-Earth orbits and a combination of both.

Inmarsat is a 64-country cooperative that uses its own satellites to provide mobile communications services for ships at sea, organizations such as haulage companies on land and commercial aircraft.

As in any high-risk endeavour, there will be both winners and losers in the Asia-Pacific region's coming transformation by s satellite. Yet there is little doubt that these message carriers in space will play a key role in bringing about the communications revolution foreseen by such visionaries as Marshall McLuhan and Arthur C. Clarke, in which people, even in the remotest areas, will be plugged in to the global electronic village.

Japan

Seminar Planned To Promote U.S. Chip Imports

OW1803093392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Japan's electronic industry said Wednesday it will hold joint seminars with its U.S. counterpart in early April to promote purchases from U.S. suppliers.

The Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ) said the forum, to be co-sponsored with the American Electronics Association (AEA), will be held in Orange County, California, April 6-7 and again in Parsippany, New Jersey, April 9-10.

The Japanese electronic industry has come under pressure from its U.S. counterpart to increase imports of U.S.-made electronic devices.

In a Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade agreement, Japan promised to aim to raise the foreign share of the Japanese semiconductor market to 20 percent from the current level of about 11 percent.

The association said the seminars will be attended by representatives of 12 major Japanese electronic firms operating in the United States and U.S. electronic devices manufacturers.

The Japanese participants will be Mitsubishi Electric Corp., NEC Corp., Sony Corp., Toshiba Corp., Hitachi Ltd., Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Sanyo Electric Co., Fujitsu Ltd., Pioneer Electronic Corp., Victor Co. of Japan, Oki Electric Industry Co., and Sharp Corp.

Nippon Steel Receives Order From PRC Firm

OW1803091592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Nippon Steel Corp. said Wednesday it has received a 600 million yen order for 12 globe-shaped tanks to hold liquified petroleum gas (LPG) from China's largest municipal gas company.

Shanghai Municipal Gas Co. ordered the tanks, which can hold 1,000 cubic meters of LPG each, Nippon Steel officials said.

The order is part of Shanghai municipal's five-year plan starting last year to double its LPG supply.

The order calls for the design for the tanks and the supply of processed steel material, equipment attached to the tanks, and instructions for constructing them.

Shanghai municipal will manage the construction. The tanks should be completed at the end of 1993.

Agreement 'Expected' on CIS Debt Moratorium

OW1803101892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1012 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Creditor nations are expected to agree around March 30 in Paris to extend a moratorium on a 4 billion dollar debt payment, due March 31, by the former Soviet republics, financial sources said Wednesday. The 17 creditor nations are likely to continue asking for interest payments as soon as possible, the sources said.

Analysts speculated private financial institutions are likely to follow suit.

In January, the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations agreed on a moratorium for debt payment by the former Soviet republics until the end of March on condition that the republics present economic reform plans.

Due to a shortage of foreign reserves, interest payments have also been delayed since the beginning of this year.

The sources said the creditor nations are likely to extend the moratorium, as Russia, which owes about 60 percent of about 60 billion dollars of the debt left by the former Soviet Union, is expected to present reform plans before the end of this month, while the Ukraine has agreed to guarantee the debts of other republics.

The sources said the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is expected to tighten its control on foreign currencies held by corporations.

Another financial source said economic assistance given by the G-7 and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to the CIS are "going into orbit," as the republics prepare for attaining membership in the IMF.

Reportage on Visit of Peru's Fujimori Continues

Aid Requested for Peru's Mining

OW1803040692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0212 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Wednesday called on Japan to continue assistance for its economic reforms, especially in boosting the country's mining industry and in privatizing state businesses, a government official said.

Fujimori said in a meeting with Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata that Peru is drawing up, in consultation with the World Bank, a new long-term program to reconstruct the country's devastated economy, an official of the Finance Ministry said.

The president sought Japan's continued cooperation in the economic reforms, in particular for developing the mining industry, a major export source for Peru, and the privatization of state-run institutions, the official said.

Mining resources like copper and zinc account for about 40 percent of Peru's exports, according to the official.

Hata said Japan will consider additional financial assistance when the program comes off the drawing board.

Fujimori said that he is grateful about the more than 100 million dollars of new loans and grants Japan promised on Tuesday.

Hata lauded Fujimori's efforts in economic reforms, saying it is remarkable that Fujimori enjoys the high support of the Peruvian people despite the austere economic program he is conducting.

Peru also proposed that Japan's Finance Ministry and Peru's Economy and Finance Ministry establish a "forum for dialogue," which Japan basically agreed to, the official said.

Investment Protection Pact Pledged

OW1803044092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0317 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Wednesday promised Peru that Japan would enter into negotiations with the South American country on an investment protection treaty, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said the pledge came in a meeting between Watanabe and his Peruvian counterpart Manuel Bracker, who is accompanying President Alberto Fujimori on a week-long state visit to Japan that began last Sunday.

Bracker was quoted as saying Peru wants to conclude an investment protection treaty with Japan as early as possible to facilitate efforts already underway to create an environment conducive to investment.

At present, Japan only has such pacts with China, Sri Lanka, and Egypt, though it is negotiating them with a number of other countries, particularly East European ones.

Japanese direct investment in Peru at the end of 1990, the latest year for which figures are available, totaled 696 million dollars, comprising 96 cases.

Japanese imports from Peru, which amounted to 572 million dollars in 1990, consisted primarily of nonferrous metals, iron ore, and coffee. Its exports, mostly equipment and crude steel, registered 76 million dollars for the same year.

Fujimori, in a luncheon meeting Monday with a large group of Japanese business leaders, asked them to increase investment in Peru to help promote economic relations between the two countries.

He noted that Peru is a major producer of copper, silver, and gold, and said there are undeveloped areas along the Amazon River that are ripe for investment from foreign countries.

Fujimori said Peru recently enacted a new law on foreign investment, which gives foreign investors the same rights as nationals and allows them to remit 100 percent of their profits and capital.

He attempted to dispel concern in Japanese business circles over political instability in Peru.

Since the Maoist guerrilla movement Shining Path took up arms in 1980, more than 24,000 Peruvians have died, about half of them civilians.

Fujimori 'Dissatisfied' With Aid

OW1803110392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said Wednesday he is dissatisfied with the size of Japan's new aid package totaling some 16.5 billion yen and asked for greater economic assistance to ease the suffering of the Peruvians.

"Judging from Peru's economic needs, these numbers are inadequate," Fujimori told reporters as he appraised Japan's promise of 100 million dollars in credit and a 3.5 billion yen grant, Fujimori said.

The president, who is currently on his second visit to Japan since his inauguration in 1990, made the remarks at a news conference at the National Press Club in Tokyo.

Even if Japan's pledge of 400 million dollars in credit last December is included in the latest package, Peru cannot help but perceive the commitments as inadequate, he said.

Fujimori said he hopes Japan will expand its economic cooperation and assistance to Peru in the future.

He renewed his appeal for Japan's yen credit to help complete Peru's development projects, although he said he is aware of Japanese concern that aid workers might be attacked by leftist guerrillas intent on scaring off foreign investment.

"It is still perceivable for Japan to extend credits through the Inter-American Development Bank, although Japanese officials said they cannot dispatch Japanese experts to Peru to conduct feasibility studies for projects in view of the unhappy incident involving Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) officials," he said.

Fujimori was referring to the murders of three JICA officials last July when about 20 Maoist Shining Path guerrillas raided a Japanese-financed agricultural technical center in Peru.

His comments came after Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa promised the dollar loan and yen grant along with trade insurance guarantees of up to 200 million dollars. Miyazawa also promised to train about 500 Peruvian technical trainees in the next three years.

Fujimori, who left Tokyo for Osaka on Wednesday, was bid farewell by Emperor Akihito at the Akasaka State Guest House.

Also at the press meeting, the Peruvian president asked Japan to play a large role in the development of Latin America "in the same manner as Japanese economic assistance had played a large role" in helping Southeast Asian countries after World War II.

Japan provided large amounts of yen credits and grants to help Asian nations reconstruct their war-ravaged infrastructures as parts of its war reparations program.

He compared the condition of the deficit-ridden Peruvian economy in 1990—then gripped by an inflation rate of 7,000 percent a year—to that of Japan five decades ago as it began its successful economic reconstruction.

Fujimori is credited with slowing hyperinflation with his austerity program, pushing the rate to 139 percent a year, and putting Peru's trade balance into the black since his election.

He said he would lead Peru to emulate Japanese diligence, discipline and rationality, which he said have brought about Japan's current prosperity.

Minister Welcomes De Klerk's Referendum Victory

OW1803134992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Wednesday Japan welcomes the results of a referendum on South African President F.W. De Klerk's power-sharing reforms.

Watanabe said in a statement the Japanese Government anticipates the creation of a "democratic and free" political system in South Africa, with which Tokyo resumed full diplomatic relations in January.

Japanese officials said South African Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha will visit Japan on Monday and Tuesday for talks with Watanabe and other Japanese leaders on a possible visit to Tokyo by De Klerk in June and on closer economic relations between the two countries.

Japan lifted most of its economic sanctions against South Africa last year.

Panel Proposes Work Period for Foreign Students

OW1803072492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—A ruling party subcommittee on Wednesday proposed a system to allow foreign research students to work in their area of study while in Japan, party officials said.

The system proposed by the panel on immigration policies of the Liberal Democratic Party's judicial affairs division would allow foreign students in Japan for technological research to practice their skills for up to two years and to work during some of that period.

The subcommittee stressed that the plan would not permit unskilled laborers and suggested that strict enforcement of the proposal's provisions could help stem illegal foreign labor.

Under the plan, students would have to be from countries that have a bilateral agreement with Japan, would have to specify their area of work, and be invited by firms or organizations wanting to carry out the research.

An extraordinary session of the ad hoc commission on administrative reform last year acknowledged the pros and cons of permitting foreign students to work in Japan.

That panel, an advisory body to the prime minister, recommended setting up a framework to accept such students, fixing their period of stay in Japan at less than two years, and approving such conditions as a system to handle job changes.

MITI Agency To Hire More Foreign Researchers

OW1803064292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0624 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—A Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) agency said Wednesday it will hire five more foreign scientists in the coming fiscal year as part of a Japanese Government program aimed at boosting scientific exchanges.

The Agency of Industrial Science and Technology's hiring plans for the year starting April 1 will augment its hiring of three foreign researchers since a scientific exchange-promotion law was introduced in 1986.

The agency said employing the scientists will help boost industrial science research through contact with foreign ideas and research methods.

The five, to be employed for one to three years, will comprise two Chinese, an American, an Indian, and a Venezuelan, with specialties that include microbiology, superconductivity, and solar energy.

Ousted Yasutsune Reiterates Vow To Stay in Diet

OW1803092692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Ousted Social Democratic Party [SDP] legislator Ryoichi Yasutsune reiterated Wednesday his resolve to stay in the House of Councillors, refusing advice from his former colleagues to leave.

"I very much regret having troubled (the party)... but I am not thinking of giving up (my seat) to prove my innocence," former SDP member Yasutsune said.

He made the remarks at a meeting with Manzo Hamamoto, chairman of the SDP's Diet Affairs Committee at the upper house, and also said he is preparing to file a law suit against two media companies for their reportings on him.

The nation's largest opposition party officially expelled Yasutsune from the party Tuesday for his alleged links with the scandal-ridden Sagawa Kyubin Group.

At a meeting with the SDP leadership Monday, Yasutsune expressed his readiness to leave the party but refused party Chief Makoto Tanabe's recommendation to give up his Diet seat.

During Wednesday's meeting, Hamamoto asked Yasutsune to resign as a parliamentarian. Pointing out that he had been elected as an SDP member from a proportional constituency but had now been stripped of his SDP membership, Hamamoto urged him to give full consideration to his current status.

Under Japan's electoral system, seats in the upper house are distributed in proportion to the number of votes each party receives in elections.

Yasutsune has admitted media reports he received 5 million yen as a loan from a subcontractor of the Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin freight group in 1989 as funds for his election campaign. But he said he repaid the loan by the December 1990 deadline.

Meanwhile, the upper house office admitted Wednesday that Yasutsune has left the SDP in compliance with the party's request.

As a result, Yasutsune will serve as an independent in the upper chamber during the remaining three years of his term.

The following is a new table of the strength of political parties in the Diet as of Wednesday.

Parties	House of Councillors
LDP	113
SDP	71
Komeito	20
JCP	14
Rengo Sangiin	13
DSP/Sports	10
Sangin Club	4
Independents	5
Vacancies	2
Total	252

Miyazawa Comments on Kanemaru's Coalition Call

OW1803085492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday ruling party power broker Shin Kanemaru's calls for political realignment are based on a broad, long-term perspective.

In reply to a question from Rengo Sangiin's Kazunobu Takai, Miyazawa told the House of Councillors Budget Committee that Kanemaru does not envisage a drastic change in Japan's political landscape after the upper house elections in July.

Kanemaru, vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has repeatedly called for a reorganization of Japanese politics by forming a new party that unites lawmakers of the LDP, the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party, and possibly the centrist opposition Komeito.

Kanemaru's remarks reflect the radical international transformation since the end of the cold war and ensuing changes in labor and business circles in Japan, Miyazawa said.

Takai also demanded that Fumio Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, and others be summoned to the Diet to uncover details of the Kyowa Co. bribery scandal and the cash-for-favors scandal involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Asked about the means of transportation for rescuing Japanese nationals overseas in times of emergency, Sohei Miyashita, director general of the Defense Agency, said the agency allows the use of Self Defense Forces (SDF) airplanes in its draft revision of the SDF Law. He said two government-owned aircraft are now under repair.

Miyashita said since the government planes are too large and might cause problems at airports, the agency opened the way for use of the SDF's C-130 transport planes.

On the government-sponsored bill that would permit SDF personnel to join United Nations peacekeeping activities in noncombat zones, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe reiterated Japan's efforts would be aimed solely at peacekeeping.

Takai criticized Watanabe and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato for their reported remarks that the policies of Rengo Sangiin, the political arm of the Japanese Trade Unions Confederation (Rengo), are not clearly shown.

Rengo-backed candidates defeated LDP candidates in upper house by-elections in Nara in February and Miyagi Prefecture earlier this month.

Watanabe said he apologizes and retracts his remark if it is considered he went too far. But Kato refused to apologize, saying he did nothing wrong because the government should listen carefully to interparty discussions and pay attention to other parties' policies.

Support for Miyazawa Cabinet Reportedly Falls

OW1803084992 Naha NHK Radio in Japanese 2210 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The NHK conducted a nationwide public opinion poll on livelihood and politics for two days on 14 and 15 March. According to the results of the poll, 20 percent of the people polled said that they support the Miyazawa cabinet while 61 percent said that they do not support it. The NHK conducted the public opinion poll by interviewing individually 1,800 males aged over 20 years and got answers from 1,162 people, or 62.4 percent of those surveyed.

According to the results of the poll, 20 percent of the people interviewed said that they support the Miyazawa cabinet while 61 percent said that they do not support it with 18 percent of those surveyed refusing to express their views whether they support the cabinet or not. In this way, it turned out that among the people polled, the nonsupporters of the Miyazawa cabinet were three times the number of supporters of the cabinet.

Compared with the poll conducted last December, or one month after the inauguration of the Miyazawa cabinet, the supporters of the cabinet dropped 15 percent while the nonsupporters increased 25 percent. As to why they do not support the cabinet, 32 percent of the polled cited the cabinet's inability to carry out policies, and this percentage represents a two-fold increase compared with the poll conducted last December. Meanwhile, 31 percent of the surveyed answered that they do not expect the cabinet to carry out the policies while 20 percent of the polled said that they do not view the cabinet's political attitude as good.

Asked which political party they support, 48.2 percent of those polled said that they support the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] while 15.4 percent said that they support the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]. Regarding the support rating for the remaining minority opposition parties, the Komeito gained 4.4 percent, the Japan Communist Party [JCP] 1.7 percent, the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] 2.6 percent, and the Social Democratic Federation 0.3 percent respectively with 25.3 percent of the polled refusing to answer the question of which political party they support. Compared with the December poll, the support rating of the ruling LDP remained flat while that of the main opposition SDPJ edged up 0.6 percent with that of the Komeito, the JCP, and the DSP declining a bit.

'Potential' Keidanren Vice Presidents Listed

OW1803090492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) is expected to start working on replacement of five or six of its vice chairmen after Chairman Gaishi Hiraiwa returns from a trip to Europe on Thursday, Keidanren sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the potential candidates for vice president include Yutaka Kume, 70, president of Nissan Motor Co., Shinroku Morohashi, 69, president of Mitsubishi Corp., Joichi Aoi, 66, president of Toshiba Corp., and Tadahiro Sekimoto, 67, president of NEC Corp.

Under Keidanren's guidelines for personnel appointments, Keidanren vice chairmen must be no older than 70 when taking up the post.

Keidanren, Japan's most powerful business lobby, is expected to name its new vice chairmen in a top-level meeting on April 13 and officially appoint them at a general meeting in late May, the sources said.

The organization has 11 vice chairmanships and among the current vice chairmen, Toshikuni Yahiro, adviser to Mitsui and Co., and two others are expected to retire at the end of their six-year terms, the sources said.

They said Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp., has also served a six-year term as vice chairman but it is not certain he will retire.

Setsuya Tabuchi, adviser to Nomura Securities Co., resigned from his post as vice chairman following a series of stock scandals that rocked Japanese brokerages last year.

Timing of Meeting on 'Slowing' Economy Advanced

OW1803054692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—The leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided Wednesday to hold a joint meeting of senior party officials and economic cabinet ministers at the Diet later the same day to discuss ways of stimulating the slowing economy, party officials said.

The party leadership advanced the timing of the planned meeting, which had been expected some time next week, because Tokyo stocks fell further in morning trading, with the Nikkei stock average dropping 318 points to around 19,600 yen, the officials said.

On Monday, the widely watched Nikkei average closed below the important psychological barrier of 20,000 for the first time in five years.

The LDP decided Tuesday to hold the joint session of party executives and economic ministers.

The ministers, including the finance minister, and LDP officials are expected to coordinate their views on the current economic situation at the meeting prior to a planned meeting of economic ministers to be held following the Diet approval of the fiscal 1992 draft budget.

The last joint meeting on economic issues of government and LDP leaders, including Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, was held in November.

Economy Resuscitation Discussed

OW1803114092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—Top officials of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) met Wednesday to discuss ways to resuscitate Japan's sluggish economy.

The leaders decided to work out by month's end a package of programs centering on a plan to speed up public works projects by setting concrete targets for the percentage of public works contracts to be launched in the first half of fiscal 1992, government officials said.

Among the leaders attending the meeting at the Diet were Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Michio Watanabe, LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata.

The meeting was originally slated for next week but was hastened by a Wednesday morning 318-point drop in the 225-issue Nikkei stock average, which Monday closed below the psychological barrier of 20,000 for the first time in five years.

Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Chief Takeshi Noda, who also took part, said the prime minister asked participants to flesh out a five-point plan to jump-start the economy, including a cut by the Bank of Japan in the official discount rate.

The plan will also call for swift passage of the fiscal 1992 budget, quick implementation of public works projects, and active housing investment, Noda told reporters.

Miyazawa also reportedly called on members of his cabinet and the LDP to come up with other ways to shore up the economy.

Noda said the government is limited in the steps it can take to spur the economy and that the measures it will adopt will probably be emergency measures.

He said the government would like to hold a meeting of relevant cabinet ministers to deal with the sputtering economy sometime this month and make a formal decision on the steps to be taken.

The government intends to craft an emergency economic revival plan sometime this month, he said.

Asked if the plan would include a reduction in the official discount rate, Noda said it was important to leave that decision up to the Bank of Japan.

Regarding the current state of the economy, he said firms are adjusting their inventories and it appeared they are running late in their attempts to do so.

The EPA chief said members of the Miyazawa cabinet all agreed that corporate confidence is cooling.

Noda said a tax cut, as a means of stimulating the economy, would be difficult to implement.

Weak Stocks Said Depressing Business Sentiment

OW1803095692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—The weak stock market is depressing business sentiment and its effects on the economy as a whole are worrying, a top-ranking official of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) said Wednesday.

The Nikkei average's slide below the 20,000 line combined with bearish media reports on the economy is depressing the "corporate mind," the official said.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stressed that the economy's backbone was still firm.

"The economy is declining, yes, but it is only declining from a very high, unsustainable level," he said.

"There is no serious gap between supply and demand as in the past recessions following the two oil shocks (in 1973 and 1979) and the yen's sharp upswing (in 1987)," he said.

"The conditions were much worse in those days than they are now," he added.

The official said corporate sales and profits figures released earlier in the day by the MOF are "weak, but they were within our projections."

"There is no shortage of money restricting consumption," he said.

Asked about a proposal to implement 80 percent of the public works projects planned for fiscal 1992 ahead of schedule, the official said, "80 percent is a bit too much."

The situation is not as serious as in 1987, when the government mobilized over 80 percent of public works projects for that fiscal year ahead of schedule, he said.

Ministry Reports Corporate Earnings Plummet

OW1803065992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0643 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 18 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance said Wednesday corporate earnings plummeted in the fourth quarter of 1991 from a year earlier due to the economic slowdown.

The ministry said its survey on business performance showed that corporate pretax profits in all sectors plunged 11.4 percent.

Pretax profits by manufacturers fell 15.7 percent, while those by nonmanufacturers decreased 7.1 percent, the survey found.

Capital investment by all sectors rose 2.6 percent, although it remained at generally low levels. Expenditures by the manufacturing sector increased 2.7 percent while those by the nonmanufacturing sector rose 2.5 percent, the ministry said.

Sanyo Reportedly Develops 'Hybrid Solar Car'

OW1803040592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Osaka, March 18 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. on Wednesday unveiled a hybrid solar car based on a combination of solar cells, rechargeable batteries, and a fuel cell.

The company said its "Mirai-1" car uses no fossil fuels and is powered only by environmentally safe oxides and solar energy.

Unlike conventional solar vehicles, the car can draw on the fuel cell and storage batteries for operating on cloudy days and at night, company officials said.

The car, which cost 50 million yen to build, has amorphous silicon solar cells on much of its upper surface.

These, in combination with the front-mounted fuel cell which generates energy through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxides, supply power to rear-mounted nickel-cadmium storage batteries which drive the motor, the company said.

The car, with the power units, weighs 400 kilograms and has a top speed of 100 kilometers per hour, Sanyo said.

The vehicle can run for an hour at 40 kph on a six-hour charge of the fuel cell, without help from the solar cells.

It can run for two hours at the same speed at night on a six-hour charge of the solar cells in strong daylight, with help of the fuel cell, the company said.

Mongolia

Military Attache Views Ties With Russia, CIS

PM1703152592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with Colonel D. Dorjgotob, military attache at the Mongolian Embassy in the Russian Federation, by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer A. Golts; date and place not given: "Mongolian Army in Time of Change"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golts] We know that Mongolia is working on documents designed to define the country's military policy. These are the "Concept for Mongolia's National Security" and "Mongolia's State Military Doctrine." What are the features of these documents, and what new features will they bring to military organizational development?

[Dorjgotob] You're right—these are really important documents. Currently we are basically completing the elaboration of the drafts of Mongolia's military doctrine and national security concept, which are to be examined by our parliament. The contents of these documents are determined by the following provisions:

The development of friendly relations with all countries—particularly our direct neighbors, whose support and help Mongolia sees as an important factor in safeguarding its own security and sovereignty;

Mongolia will not consider any state its enemy if that state does not demonstrate open hostility toward it;

The state's sovereignty and security will be safeguarded mainly by political means and international law. At the same time, of course, Mongolia will have its own Armed Forces.

Following the adoption of these documents there will be corresponding changes to the Armed Forces' organizational development.

[Golts] There is a debate under way in Mongolian society about the need to create a professional army. What is your attitude toward this problem?

[Dorjgotob] As armaments and hardware get more sophisticated, they demand ever-increasing knowledge from their users. It is impossible to train full-fledged specialist users of complex combat hardware in a short period. And that is just one of the factors pointing to the need to set up a professional army. But in shaping a professional army we will also encounter considerable financial difficulties.

Currently our country is in an economic crisis, and therefore we cannot expedite the creation of a full-fledged professional army. But this in no way means that we cannot lay the foundations for such an army right now. In particular, it would be possible at the initial stage to staff certain important units and subunits with officers and extended-service volunteers or to staff the units on a mixed basis. For instance, an infantry fighting vehicle crew—commander, driver, and gunner—could be made up of extended-service volunteers (that is, professionals), while the assault troops could be draftees.

[Golts] Mongolia is moving to new economic relations. Will it be possible in this situation to provide the Armed Forces with everything they need? Will it be possible to provide social guarantees for servicemen?

[Dorjgotob] A feature of our army is that it currently uses exclusively Soviet weapons and combat equipment. That is why we buy spares for this equipment and these weapons, along with other items, from the CIS countries—primarily the Russian Federation. Unfortunately, without waiting for intergovernmental agreements to be concluded, the former USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations unilaterally altered the terms of our cooperation, as a result of which trade in the military sphere between our countries virtually came to a halt last year. We are hoping that the sides' long-term state interests will prevail over the short-term desire to gain an advantage and that, consequently, we will be able to prevent disruption to trade and economic ties in the military sphere.

As for social guarantees for servicemen, we have been encountering considerable difficulties in this area. This is related to the fact that the country itself is on the threshold of the transition to a market economy, which will not be painless under any circumstances.

[Golts] This year marks the end of the CIS troop withdrawal from Mongolian territory. But it is obvious that relations between our countries' Armed Forces will continue to develop. What are the prospects for this development?

[Dorjgotob] Mongolia is interested in continuing to pursue cooperation with Russia and the other CIS countries, since this would be in both sides' interests. Training of certain military cadres, invitations to certain specialists, joint work on scientific research, exchanges of experience in the field of military organizational development, purchases of military goods, and so forth could continue in the same way. The traditional exchanges of military artists, sportsmen, and tourists could be continued too.

I am sure that the traditional relations between our countries' Armed Forces will continue to develop, being filled with new content and enriched with new forms that are in both countries' interests. This would be a natural development between neighboring states.

North Korea

Delegates to Talks on Nuclear Committee Listed

SK1803053492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Yon Hyong-muk, head of the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks, today notified his South side counterpart Chong Won-sik of the list of members of the North side in accordance with the agreement at contact between delegates of both sides to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Follows the list.

1. Chairman Choe U-chin	roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry
2. Vice-chairman Pak Kwang-won	major general of the Korean People's Army
3. Member Kim Kyong-chun	director of a department of the Ministry of Atomic Energy Industry
4. Member Chang Chang-chon	researcher of the Foreign Ministry
5. Member Kim Su-kil	researcher of the Foreign Ministry
6. Member Choe Yong-kwan	senior colonel of the Korean People's Army
7. Member Kim Man-kil	councillor of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland

Anniversary of U.S. Cultural Center Arson Noted

SK1803113692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 18 Mar 92

["South Korean People Will Punish U.S. Imperialist Aggressors"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today observes the 10th anniversary of the arson of the "American cultural centre" in Pusan through which patriotic students and people of South Korea severely punished the U.S. imperialists, the aggressors, upholding the slogan of anti-U.S. independence.

The arson of the "American cultural centre" in Pusan in March 1982 was a South Korean people's stern judgement on the U.S. imperialists occupying South Korea and a manifestation of their determination not to tolerate any longer the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and aggressive moves.

Noting that South Korea which had once been the only "tranquil zone without anti-U.S. struggle" in the world has turned into a "zone of ceaseless, fierce anti-U.S. struggle", a by-lined article of the paper says:

Through their life experience under the more than 40 years of colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists the South Korean students and people have clearly realised that the United States is not a "friend" but a dyed-in-the-wool aggressor, plunderer and strangler of democracy. The criminal deed of the U.S. imperialists who manipulated behind the scene the Kwangju bloodbath, in particular, convinced South Korean people that the United States is the arch enemy.

The anti-U.S. struggle in South Korea is now gaining scope among people of all walks of life, not confined to students.

It is getting fiercer along with the movement for national reunification which is gaining strength among Koreans in the North, the South and overseas of late.

It is the strong demand of South Korean people to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and terminate the colonial rule.

Such voices are ringing out more loudly following the adoption and effectuation of the historical agreement in which the North and the South promised to solve the question of peace and reunification of the country by the efforts of the nation itself.

The U.S. imperialists, however, are working in every way to avoid withdrawing their forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea under all circumstances, while turning a deaf ear to the demand of the people and failing to look at the changed reality of the Korean peninsula.

The attempt of the United States to keep South Korea under its occupation is anachronistic.

As long as there remain the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea, the people's struggle against the United States will flare up more fiercely and the aggressors will be severely punished and expelled.

South Ruling Party Said 'Stifling' Democracy

SK1803115092 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0957 GMT 18 Mar 92

["Repressive Row on Threshold of 'Elections'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—The "spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party" (DLP) on March 14 urged the authorities concerned to "strictly cope with" the activist students, alleging that they were trying to "use the general elections as a theatre of struggle." Meanwhile, the "Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office" decided to tighten control on the "election" campaign of students.

This repressive row on the threshold of the "elections" eloquently shows that the South Korean authorities intend to have the field to itself in the "elections" again after stifling the pro-democracy forces behind the facade of "fair elections," notes NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

It is outrageous of the dictatorial group in power to attempt to pave the way for its another term of office with repression, the group forsaken by the people for its treacherous rule.

Some time ago, the "National Council of Student Representatives" held rallies at universities across South Korea for victory in the "general elections," vowing to launch a joint struggle for that purpose.

Student organisations plan to organise a struggle of 16 million youths of South Korea, conducting a propaganda campaign supporting the candidates of the democratic camp and exposing the power-backed, money-backed "election" rigging of the "DLP" and calling on people to participate in voting in local areas, in order to turn the "elections" into an occasion of judging the "DLP".

The South Korean authorities and the "DLP" scheme to fabricate their "landslide victory" without a hitch in the lawless pandemonium after binding the pro-democracy forces in the chains of fascism to quell the anti-"DLP" fighting spirit.

The more outrageous the South Korean authorities get in suppression, the more closely the people will rally themselves to resist the dictatorship.

Article Urges South To Open Nuclear Arsenals

SK1803053192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0444 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today urge that the South Korean authorities should open the secret nuclear arsenals to the public and get the hidden nuclear weapons withdrawn from there without delay and accept their total inspection, since the presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in the arsenals in South Korea has been made known.

Despite strong demand of broad public circles in the northern half of the country that the secret nuclear arsenals of the United States in South Korea be opened to the public and their total inspection be accepted, the South Korean authorities are still keeping mum about it, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

The South Korean authorities not only lend a deaf ear to the calls of people at home and abroad for opening the secret nuclear arsenals to the public but doggedly take exception to the suggestion that the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases of the U.S. Forces present in South Korea be listed as objects of inspection, while talking about "simultaneous inspection" and "trial inspection." This is as good as admitting that nuclear weapons are kept hidden in South Korea.

If there were no nuclear arms of the United States in South Korea, there can be no reason for them to refuse to open the arsenals to the public and no ground to take exception to a total inspection of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

While keeping the U.S. nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea, they have vociferously claimed a "nuclear inspection" of us. This is a brazen act reminding one of a thiefcrying "stop thief!," a far-fetched, intentional move to find an excuse for keeping the U.S. nuclear weapons and unleashing a nuclear war.

Any one with reason cannot deny that the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula comes from the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, not from the North which has no nuclear arms.

The South Korean authorities must stop the "nuclear inspection" racket they have kicked up with a false talk about "North's nuclear development" and faithfully discharge their obligations which they promised to the nation to fulfill through the joint declaration on denuclearization.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON urges the South Korean authorities, though belatedly, to open the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases present in South Korea to the public and accept a total inspection of them, as demanded by the nation and desired by the world.

Russian Embassy Marks Economic Pact Anniversary

*SK1803044792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0418 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Aleksandr Kapto, ambassador of the Russian Federation to Korea, arranged a reception Tuesday at his embassy on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Invited there were Kim Chong-ho, vice-minister of culture and art, Yim Ki-song, vice-minister of external economic affairs, O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged there.

The reception took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Vice President Returns From Cairo

*SK1803045692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0425 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-president, returned home yesterday after visiting the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He was met at the airport by alternate Politburo member and Secretary of the C.C., WPK Choe Tae-pok, Secretary of the Central People's Committee Chi Chang-ik, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Pak Myong-Ku, Egyptian Ambassador to Korea 'Ali al-Mutawalli Hijazi and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

The vice-president left Cairo on March 15.

Paper Urges 'Firm Faith' in Socialism

*SK1803114592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1030 GMT 18 Mar 92*

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for Confidence in Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 18 (KCNA)—To have firm faith in socialism is a fundamental demand in foiling the anti-socialist manoeuvrings of the imperialists and victoriously advancing the cause of independence, stresses NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article says:

Today the imperialists are arguing that the frustration of socialism in some countries means the "end" of socialism. Under this situation, it is important for the revolutionary people to look squarely at the present situation and have firm confidence in socialism.

The article quotes the great leader comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"We must see the change of the current situation not pessimistically but optimistically and advance more vigorously along the road of independence with firm confidence in socialism."

The article further says:

Victory and failure of socialism depend on how the popular masses view socialism and how they fight for its victory.

The popular masses should have firm confidence in socialism firstly because the cause of socialism, the cause of independence, is accomplished through a complicated and protracted struggle.

The cause of socialism is an untrodden path and so all historical problems arising in carrying it out should creatively be solved from a new angle.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle is a manifestation of firm confidence in socialism. A person with firm confidence in socialism goes through all difficulties in his right senses and by his own efforts, not yielding to them.

People should have firm confidence in socialism nextly because one generation replaces another in the course of accomplishing the cause of socialism.

This is all the more important because the imperialists and reactionaries are intensifying the anti-socialist campaign as never before.

The strategic aim sought by the imperialists for the present is to totally destroy socialism and revive the colonial system so as to realise imperialist domination over the world.

The powerful ideological weapon in smashing the anti-socialist campaign of the imperialists is firm confidence in socialism. Confrontation with the imperialists' strategy of "peaceful transition" is an ideological face-off.

Confidence in socialism makes it possible to have a correct understanding of the reactionary essence of the "peaceful transition" strategy.

If one is to have firm confidence in socialism, it is important, above all, for him to acquire a correct knowledge of the essential advantages of socialism theoretically and through his own life.

The imperialists are now boasting of the "material prosperity" of capitalism and talking loudly about its "superiority".

Deformed material life, poor mental and cultural life and reactionary political life—this is the main feature and an incurable disease of capitalist society.

Capitalism is not "triumphing" but is becoming corrupt and suffering from an incurable disease.

There is no doubt that, with the growth of independence and creativity of the people, socialism will have a greater attraction and emerge victorious without fail.

Only when the chuche idea is applied under the uplifted banner of the idea, can the cause of socialism be carried into brilliant realisation. Our people who are accelerating the cause of modelling the whole society on the chuche idea are resolutely advancing along the road of independence without wavering in the anti-socialist storm, but upholding the banner of the chuche idea.

South Korea

Spokesman Reacts 'Coolly' to Yon Hyong-muk Letter

SK1703124892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1225 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk charged Tuesday that South Korea was creating a stumbling block to the development of inter-Korean subcommittee meetings by linking it to the solution of nuclear problems.

"Speaking of the nuclear issue, everything is going well in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the issue can also be dealt with even between South and North Korea as the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) is to be formed soon," Yon said in a letter to his Southern counterpart Chong Won-sik.

Yon proposed that both sides work out a supplementary accord on the fulfilment of the inter-Korean basic agreement and adjunct agreements on the formation and operation of joint commissions by making progress in subcommittee meetings and put them into effect during the seventh high-level talks.

"Considering your attitudes, we cannot help being concerned about whether supplementary agreements for the implementation of inter-Korean reconciliation agreements and the joint commissions will be drawn up and the seventh high-level talks can be held as scheduled from May 5," the North Korean prime minister said.

Yon urged South Korea should do its best to conclude adjunct agreements on subcommittees at an early date by backing off from the "unjust position" of delaying the implementation of the inter-Korean basic agreement. He called on the South Korean Government to refrain from raising a disturbance in connection with nuclear issues.

Meanwhile, Yi Tong-pok, Southern spokesman for the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, reacted coolly to Yon's letter, saying that Seoul's position relating to the letter would be conveyed to North Korea through the forthcoming meetings of subcommittees.

Seoul Wants Forced Inspection Right for Committee

SK1703232092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0622 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea plans to urge North Korea to empower the inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) to conduct forced inspections and get it to adhere to reciprocity in selecting inspection sites, government sources said Tuesday.

South Korea wants a clause inserted in the procedure agreement guaranteeing inspection on any installations suspected of hiding nuclear-related materials or facilities, they said.

This clause would open up facilities even if they are designated unilaterally by the other side, they said.

"This would be similar to forced inspection, not restricting subjects of inspection solely to sites that both sides agree on," an official said.

The principle of reciprocity means inspections are conducted on the same number of sites in both sides on the same type of facilities—military for military, and civilian for civilian.

South and North Korea initialed the agreement on the establishment and operation of the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission March 14. The commission is to oversee inter-Korean nuclear inspection.

The JNCC holds its first meeting on Thursday, and the agreement says it has approximately two months to settle on the inspection procedures. The first inspection is to take place within 20 days after the procedures are determined, which would be around June 10.

"We hope not, but we may have to resort to forced inspection to completely dispel suspicions that North Korea is hiding nuclear materials or installations," the official said.

"The principle of reciprocity is a basic idea. North Korea demands that the two sides exchange an inspection of its

Yongbyon facilities for all the U.S. military bases in South Korea. This violates reciprocity, and we will not accept such demands," the official said.

South and North Korea will table draft proposals at Thursday's JNCC meeting. Seven delegates will attend from each of the two sides.

"Seoul will urge Pyongyang to determine the inspection procedures by the next inter-Korean prime ministers' talks here May 5-8," the official said.

North Continues Propaganda After Reconciliation

SK1803124592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0841 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—One month has passed since the inter-Korean Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation went into effect, but no change has been seen in Pyongyang's propaganda against Seoul, South Korean officials say.

As far as propaganda coming from the official radio stations and borderline loudspeakers are concerned, the officials say, North Korea does not seem to have made a fundamental change in its strategy toward South Korea.

From Feb. 1-18 before the agreement went into force, North Korea made 183 malicious broadcasts about South Korea, or 10 broadcasts a day, but the number increased to 17 a day, or 189 in all, Feb. 19-29. From March 1-10, an average 16 broadcasts were made a day to criticize South Korea and the trend is going on, the officials say.

Thirty-seven percent of the broadcasts are distorted accounts of South Korean reality or vilification of the government, they say.

Twenty-two percent are aimed at agitating anti-government struggles, 17 percent at instigating a struggle capitalizing on the election fever, 17 percent at denouncing the South's policy toward North Korea, and 7 percent at hurting Seoul-Washington relations.

For a while at the beginning of March, North Korean broadcasts stopped calling South Korean President No Tae-u bad names and referred to him as the "highest authority in South Korea" or "the South Korean power holder," but last Friday they began to use derogatory words about No and describe him as a "traitor." In broadcasts about the general elections in the South, North Korean radio broadcasts say "obliterate the Democratic Liberal Party."

On Friday, radio Pyongyang called No "the puppet gang leader" and "a tool of the American imperialists," according to the officials.

Reports on Inter-Korean Contacts, Exchanges

Business Contacts Increasing

SK1703232392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1302 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Applications for contacts with North Korean businessmen are increasing rapidly this year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Tuesday.

The number of applications for inter-Korean business contacts allowed during the first two months of this year totaled 47, or 40 percent of 118 permits issued during the whole last year, a Ministry spokesman said.

Eighteen of the applications were for probing the possibility of trade with, or investment in, North Korea, compared with 27 reported in 1991, he said.

Meanwhile, the amount of South Korean purchases of North Korean goods totaled 12.15 million U.S. dollars in February, up 13 percent from a year ago, and North Korea bought 3.37 million dollars of South Korean products, up 299 percent.

North Korea bought low-density polyethylene used for agricultural purposes and sold zinc ingots, cement, potatoes and frozen scabbard fish.

The January-February inter-Korean trade volume totaled 24.83 million dollars in 51 deals, up 21 percent and 55 percent, respectively, from the corresponding period last year.

North Rejects Reunion Proposal

SK1803061992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0550 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Panmunjom, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea proposed to North Korea Wednesday that they arrange a reunion for members of separated families on June 5 and that they allow members of separated families to live wherever they like in either Korea.

The offer was made in the first meeting of the South-North Korean Exchanges and Cooperation Subcommittee.

Im Tong-won, southern co-chairman, proposed that 400 to 500 people from each side spend six days visiting their birthplaces on the other side of the border around June 5, Tano day or May 5 by the oriental calendar.

"To improve inter-Korean relations, it is desirable for the two sides to begin discussions first on humanitarian questions," Im said.

The subcommittee, which met at Peace House in the southern sector of the truce village of Panmunjom, has seven members from each side.

In addition, the South suggested that the subcommittee draft four supplementary agreements and form four joint commissions, dealing with dispersed families, transit and communications, economic exchanges and cooperation, and socio-culture.

Southern subcommittee members said that in supplementary agreements the two sides could agree to establish economic offices in Seoul and Pyongyang and an economic consultative office in Panmunjom.

They offered to make Changdan near Paju and Panmunjom the crossing points for inter-Korean travel and to field joint teams in events such as the Olympics and world championships.

In connection with the separated family issue, the South suggested family members be allowed to freely visit the other side to find out the fate of missing relatives, that they be allowed to exchange letters at Panmunjom once a week, and that they be allowed to meet once a month at Panmunjom.

On the issue of economic exchanges, Im said the two sides should not impose tariffs on the commodities they trade as the trade should be taken as internal, and they should agree on measures like an investment guarantee, double taxation prevention and patent and trademark protection.

In the socio-culture area, Im proposed that they allow student tours, exchange education observation teams, exchange cultural and art troupes on common national holidays, and jointly produce or exchange radio and television programs.

Im said the two sides should tackle exigent tasks on a case-by-case basis for immediate implementation.

The North reacted negatively to this overture, saying that matters of exchange and cooperation should be dealt with by the sector-by-sector joint commissions to be formed by May 18.

Cooperation Talks Slated for Apr

SK1803091792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0830 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] On 18 March South and North Korea held the first meeting of the South-North Korean Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee of the high-level talks at the Peace House on the South side of Panmunjom. Both sides agreed in principle to effectuate the supplementary agreement and the joint committee at the seventh round of high-level talks. No agreements were reached on separated families, however.

The South and North agreed that three members from each side of the subcommittee would meet to reach some kind of compromise on 25 March at the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission conference room in Panmunjom. The second subcommittee meeting will be held on 18 April.

Policy To Withhold Credits From CIS Affirmed

SK1403092592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (YONHAP)—The government Saturday reaffirmed its policy to withhold credits to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) until after the former Soviet Union makes a sure payment guarantee.

Key economic officials agreed it would not be wise for the country to resume extending loans to the former USSR at this time when it is not clear how CIS republics would share credits and guarantee their payment.

The officials shared the view that Korea does not need to be in a hurry over the credits, noting that even some advanced countries like the United States are yet to draw any conclusion about the question.

Assistant ministers from the Foreign, Finance, Trade-Industry and some other relevant Ministries attended a meeting to discuss the question of credits for the former USSR. The meeting was chaired by Kim In-ho, director of the Economic Planning Board's international economic policy coordination office.

An official said this government stand would be conveyed to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when he visits Korea on March 17 as planned.

"Unless Minister Kozyrev offers a clear payment guarantee, we would hardly be able to resume extending credits to them," the official added.

Of the 800 million U.S. dollars the country promised to release in tied loans to the former USSR last year, the government approved the use of 469.1 million dollars by last December 27 when the rest of the amount was frozen.

The country is supposed to extend to the former USSR 700 million dollars in tied loans and 500 million dollars in deferred payment imports funds during 1992-1993.

Russian Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives in Seoul 17 Mar

SK1703124192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1231 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived Tuesday night in Seoul, where he will discuss the North Korean nuclear issue, a planned visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and a bilateral amity pact.

Kozyrev will meet with South Korean President No Tae-u and Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok. He and Yi will sign a memorandum of understanding on visa issuance Wednesday [18 March] morning that allows multiple-entry visas for businessmen assigned to each other's country.

He and Yi are set to meet a second time Thursday for talks on deterring North Korean nuclear weapons development, Foreign Ministry officials said.

They will also talk about arrangements for Yeltsin's visit, expected in September, and the South Korea-Russia amity pact the two countries plan to sign during Yeltsin's stay.

The Russian foreign minister has meetings scheduled with Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu and a number of business leaders to discuss the resumption of Korean aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Meets Yi Sang-ok on Nuclear Issue

SK1803022392 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0130 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] ROK and Russia have agreed to make joint efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok today held talks with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev and agreed that resolving the North Korean nuclear issue is essential to security in Northeast Asia.

At today's talks, Minister Yi Sang-ok noted that it is necessary for Russia to take a more active role in checking North Korea's nuclear weapons development, and urged Russia to exercise prudence in its military cooperation with North Korea.

Minister Kozyrev said that Russia has stopped providing North Korea with fuel for its nuclear power plant and that Russia will work to prevent its nuclear technology from leaking to North Korea.

Ministers View DPRK 'Threat'

SK1803035392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea asked the Russian Federation Wednesday to play a more positive role in resolving the issue of North Korea's nuclear development and to abstain from military cooperation with the North.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, meeting his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, at his office, also expressed the hope that the 1961 Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance signed by North Korea and the Soviet Union would be revised in a way improving the cold war security structure in Northeast Asia. Russia recently succeeded the Soviet Union as treaty signatory.

Yi called for Russia's cooperation to encourage North Korea to put into practice the Inter-Korean Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation, and the Joint Declaration on a Nuclear-Free Korea, both signed late last year.

The two ministers shared the view that North Korea's development of nuclear arms would pose the greatest threat to the security and peace of Northeast Asia and promised to make all-out diplomatic endeavors for early inspection of North Korea's nuclear capability.

Kozyrev said Russia had already stopped supplying technology related to construction of nuclear power plants and nuclear fuels and pledged support to prevent the outflow of nuclear scientists into North Korea.

The two ministers agreed in principle on promoting Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to South Korea in early September and to work out a bilateral treaty on good neighborly and cooperative relations by August for formal signing by their presidents during Yeltsin's stay here.

Yi proposed joint research efforts be made into historical materials, emphasizing a clear revelation of incidents in their bilateral history, such as the Soviet downing of KAL 007 in 1983, should precede the establishment of new cooperative ties between the two countries.

Kozyrev asked for Korean firms' active participation and cooperation for the development of gas deposits on the island of Sakhalin and the early resumption of economic assistance, suspended after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Yi said South Korea would promptly offer the delayed 330 million dollars as soon as Russia took legal steps to guarantee repayment for the 1.8 billion-dollar loan for 1991.

The two ministers signed a consular agreement and a memorandum of understanding on visa issuance at the end of their talks.

Denuclearization Termed 'Urgent'

SK1803075792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said Wednesday his country was "open to any possible assistance" to South Korea in deterring North Korean nuclear arms development, including support for South Korea at the U.N. Security Council.

The countries will sign a bilateral amity pact when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Seoul in September, said Kwon Yong-Min, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's European Affairs Bureau.

Kozyrev told South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok that denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was "an absolutely urgent matter," Kwon said, and that Russia saw no reason for North Korea to delay accepting international nuclear inspection.

The Russian foreign minister came to Seoul Tuesday for talks with Yi and South Korean business leaders.

The wording of the South Korea-Russia pact would be settled by August for formal signing during Yeltsin's visit early September, Kwon told a post-meeting briefing.

Yi requested that Russia be prudent in military cooperation with North Korea, and Kozyrev said his government will not supply weapons of aggression to North Korea and will consult with South Korea about any military cooperation with Pyongyang.

The two countries reaffirmed an agreement to open consulates general in Vladivostok and Pusan while working for early signing of pacts on cultural exchanges and avoidance of double taxation.

On recent reports by a Russian weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY that North Korea secretly created its first nuclear detonator in 1990, Kozyrev said his government did not have such information and that the reports were hardly credible.

Economic Cooperation Encouraged

SK1803102492 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] The Russian Government established an enterprise that will handle economic cooperation with the ROK. With the recent visits of Russia's high-ranking government officials, including deputy premier and foreign minister, the Russian Government has promoted economic cooperation with the ROK.

According to the Korean Trade Promotion Association on 17 March, Russia recently established (Koros). This company will completely handle affairs concerning economic cooperation with the ROK, such as ROK enterprises' joint investment in Russia. (Koros) asked ROK enterprises to participate in a fair to revitalize the national economy, which will be held in Moscow in May. (Koros) officially notified the ROK that, using the fair as an occasion, ROK enterprises will export their goods to Russia and promote a joint venture.

(Smirnov), chairman of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited the ROK on 3 March. He notified the ROK that Russia will participate in Taejon Expo and strongly asked the ROK side to expand economic cooperation between both countries. Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev arrived on 17 March, and Deputy Premier Shokhin will visit in April to ask for economic cooperation. Foreign Minister Kozyrev will discuss the ROK's loan to Russia and the itinerary of President Yeltsin's visit to the ROK.

Fisheries Accord Viewed

SK1803085992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korea-Russia fisheries accord is not intended to favor either Japan or Russia in their dispute over the four Kuril Islands, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Wednesday.

Yi told visiting Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev that Korea hoped for early settlement of the dispute, Ministry officials said.

Tokyo has complained to Seoul about the fisheries agreement, signed between private companies in February, as it allows South Korean vessels into waters off the Kuril Islands in return for payments to Russia. Tokyo claims ownership of the islands, which it calls the northern territories.

Kozyrev told Yi that his government planned to solve the dispute through a peace treaty, but until a treaty was formally concluded Russia had the legal claim over the islands.

The Korea-Russia fisheries accord was one kind of economic cooperation and in no way influenced Korea's basic position on the Kuril Islands, Kozyrev said.

Reports Continue on Election Progress, Campaigns

Polls Show Electoral Break-Down

SK1803001892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] With less than a week before voters go to the polls, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is leading in less than half of the total 237 electoral districts with the main opposition Democratic Party [DP] ahead in about 60 or one-fourth.

Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party [UNP] is believed ahead in about 10 to 15 constituencies, according to political analysts.

They estimate that the DLP, led by President No Tae-u, has the upper hand in 105 to 110 constituencies. A ruling camp analysis shows that the DLP enjoys a solid lead in 95 districts as of yesterday.

The survey also shows that ruling party candidates are neck and neck with their opposition rivals in 50 to 55 districts.

The DP, co-headed by Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, has the upper hand in 60 to 62 areas, most in its traditional stronghold of Cholla-namdo and Cholla-pukto provinces and in Seoul.

In Seoul's 44 constituencies, the DP appears to be outfacing the DLP with solid or slight leads in 18, while the ruling party holds the edge in about 15. The UNP is waging close races in several districts, including Kangnam-A and Nowon-B, they said.

In Kyongsang-pukto, Kyongsang-namdo, Taegu and Pusan, the DLP is leading in 48 to 50 of the total 71 constituencies and the best the DP can do in the traditionally pro-government regions is to run neck-and-neck in two or three, they observed.

The UNP has come on rather strong in Kyongsang-namdo province as its candidates are leading in seven to eight constituencies, including two in Ulsan city, the home of many Hyundai subsidiaries.

In Kwangju and the rest of the Cholla area, which has 39 districts, the opposition DP has an unassailable lead in all districts. The DLP sees a chance of only winning four. In the previous poll four years ago, Kim Tae-chung's party enjoyed a clean sweep across the area.

In Chungchong-pukto and Chungchong-namdo provinces' 23 constituencies, the DLP is maintaining comfortable leads in about 10, and is trailing in some eight to nine.

In 14 contests in Kwangwon-do, the ruling party expects it will win about half and is running even in five constituencies. The UNP is leading in two or three districts, according to the analysts.

In Cheju's three constituencies, the DLP has a safe lead in one, and is waging close contests in two others, they said.

Independent candidates are strong in some 20 districts, seriously threatening contenders from political parties, according to the analysts.

The major parties are preparing strategies for the capital and central zones, where many races are too close to call. Party strategists believe 40 to 50 percent of the voters in these areas are uncommitted.

DLP executive chairman Kim Yong-sam is set to stump in Seoul following a tour of Pusan, while DP co-leader Kim Tae-chung in has scheduled last-minute campaigns in Seoul and its vicinity following visits to his stronghold Cholla provinces.

Economic Issues Top Voters' Lists

SK1803005392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Pocket-book issues are the top concern of voters, and democracy ranks at the bottom of the list, according to a poll conducted by Gallup Korea and a daily.

Of 2,006 voters questioned nationwide between March 12 and 14, more than one-third (36 percent) said the biggest issue in the March 24 general elections was the economy, followed by balanced regional development (25.8 percent), social stability (11.9 percent), rural and fishery issues (8.2 percent) and wellbeing for the masses (5.8 percent).

Such non-economic issues as fair elections and democratization were low on the list at 4.5 percent and a 3 percent, respectively. Character rather than party affiliation was given more weight in picking a candidate by those questioned in the telephone poll.

Women Voters Seen as Big Factor

SK1803125292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 18 Mar 92

[By Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, March 19 (YONHAP)—An increasing number of women voters are saying: Read our lips.

And many candidates for the March 24 general elections have got the message: They want equal rights for women.

Korean women, treated as second-class citizens for centuries, found their power in a democratic society and are asserting their rights as the country prepares to hold free elections for the National Assembly.

According to a survey by the YMCA, 70 percent of women will cast their ballots in the general elections March 24 and they favor candidates who promise to work for equal rights for women.

The poll of 720 eligible women voters in the Seoul metropolitan area also found that 77.3 percent would rather vote for a woman if their qualifications and other conditions were same as those of a man.

Showing political sophistication and a clear departure from past practice, only 2.8 percent said they would vote for a candidate for looks and 1.9 percent said they would go to the poll on their own and not because all the other members of their family urged them to go.

Executive chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (DLP) Kim Yong-sam, for one, told a party rally in Pusan Tuesday that his party, if given a clear majority in the assembly, would work for reforms of laws concerning family, family registration and inheritance and other rights for women.

Kim, as well as other politicians and candidates, are well advised to pay closer attention to women voters since they outnumber men. According to government statistics, there were 28,989,218 eligible voters of which 14,684,931 or 50.7 percent are women.

In addition to openly promising to work for women's rights, like the DLP's Kim, many other candidates are resorting to various campaign strategies to woo women.

A 57-year-old DLP candidate in an affluent district in Kangnam, southern Seoul, is distributing a leaflet in which he calls himself a champion for women. He addressed women voters: "Oh, wise ones, your name is woman!"

One of the main opposition Democratic Party's two official election pamphlets is exclusively aimed at women voters. Titled "Mothers Waited for Four Years for a Change," it appeals for women's shopping basket, which it says now can hold almost nothing if mothers go out with a 10,000-won bill.

One Unification National Party candidate in the Songpa District in Seoul made a public pledge that, if elected, he would work for legislation allowing a man to legally marry into his wife's family.

A woman candidate in Seoul from the new Political Reform Party, meanwhile, recruited women for all 150 election workers and a 56-year-old independent man candidate in Kangwon Province has devised a rather corny catchphrase: "We can hold elections thanks to our mothers."

Pak Chol-san, a fellow at the Korean Polytechnic Institute, sounded a note of caution, saying Confucian tradition still persists in parts of the country.

"In a district like that, it is inadvisable for even the wife of a candidate to appear in public campaigning for her husband," he said. "Candidates also should exercise prudence in approaching women voters."

UNP on Government 'Smear' Tactics

SK1803002992 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The new-born Unification National Party [UNP] yesterday accused the government of forcing the nation's five major business organizations to issue a statement criticizing party leader Chong Chu-yong's political ambitions.

"We understand that the government tried to force the organizations to issue the statement but faced opposition," said UNP spokesman Yi In-won in a statement.

Yi said the party had proof that the government made fraudulent use of the organizations' names to launch a smear campaign.

The five business organizations, including the Federation of Korean Industries and the Korea Foreign Trade Association, put out a statement in national dailies yesterday criticizing Chong for exploiting Hyundai funds and manpower for his political bid.

The statement expressed the fear that Chong's senseless political ambition would put the national economy at risk.

"Politicians and businessmen have their own paths to follow and their own jobs to do.... We businessmen hereby pledge to contribute to the nation by devoting all our energy to economic development," said the statement.

Chong, who was on a campaign swing through North Kyongsang Province, accused the government of breaking the election law by orchestrating the "groundless" smear campaign against himself and his UNP.

Officials, Students Arrested

SK1803024392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Seoul prosecution arrested a senior Unification National Party [UNP] official and two Seoul university students yesterday for engaging in illegal campaigning, charging them with violating the National Assemblymen Election Law.

Yi Wun-pyo, 24, and Kim Chong-kil, 23, both of Chungang University, were suspected of receiving a large amount of money from Ko Chol-yong, 40, secretary-general of the UNP's young party members' organization, in return for supporting the party's stumping rallies in Seoul and Kyonggi-to, prosecution sources said yesterday.

Yi, an industrial economics senior, and Kim, an economics junior, were accused of proposing to Ko at his downtown office that they would send at least 1,000 university students, affiliated with their private collegian group "Do It Event," to the UNP's campaign rallies if the party gives them 20,000 to 30,000 won per person, they said.

Ko accepted their offer and the two students mobilized 696 students for the party's campaign rallies in the Seoul metropolitan area on four occasions, receiving 27.8 million won in cash in return for their services, the sources said.

In connection with the illegal campaign scam, the prosecution also booked without physical detention a member of the group, identified as Cho Su-chin, 22, a senior at Songsin Women's University and put another UNP official, identified only as Yi, 40, on the wanted list.

A prosecution investigation showed that each student was paid 20,000 won to 30,000 won to participate in the campaign rallies and the remaining money was distributed among senior members of the group, they said.

The prosecution will investigate the source of the fund the Unification National Party gave to the students and election violators involved in the scam will face stern punishment, the sources said.

Concern Over 'Vote-Buying' Noted

SK1803045992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—As the campaign for the March 24 general elections entered its final phase, political parties and election officials expressed concern Wednesday that candidates could resort to money to sway undecided voters.

With a large chunk of voters still wavering, especially in the Seoul metropolitan area, candidates, including independents, are making desperate efforts to woo them by fielding two to five times more campaign workers than allowed by election laws.

Many of them are also paying 30,000 to 10,000 won a day to each of those campaign workers, or six to 10 times more money than allowed by law, ignoring rising criticism from social and civic leaders, who have been advocating fair and clean elections.

Some election officials said there was a strong indication that large amounts of money and "presents" could change hands in vote-buying deals at the last moment since many candidates have so far been restrained in the use of money under strict control by the Central Election Management Committee and other watchdog organizations.

YONHAP's nationwide election task force calculates that many of party candidates have spent some 1 billion won so far to employ an average of 500 to 1,000 election workers each, although they are not allowed to recruit more than 200.

Under the election laws, candidates are prohibited from paying more than 5,000 won a day but in almost every electoral district, candidates were found to be spending 30,000 and 100,000 won a day per person.

At least one candidate in North Chungchong Province said he figured he needed more than 1 billion won for employing 1,000 workers, paying 50,000 won per person a day over a period of 20 days. He said he had to pay much more to aides and special assistants.

In Seoul and its satellite cities and some electoral districts in Chungchong and South Kyongsang Provinces, where candidates are running neck and neck, up to 3 billion to 4 billion won will have been spent by many candidates, and 2 billion won in rural districts, when money spent before the announcement of formal election campaign was made on March 7 was counted. All candidates are allowed to spend only 110 million won under the law.

Many candidates also induce people to their rallies by paying an average 50,000 won per person, according to charges being leveled against each other by candidates.

Hyundai Employees Assist UNP

SK1803060892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—The Unification National Party [UNP], founded and led by Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Group, has 156 people on its staff who have either resigned or taken leaves of absence from Hyundai to work on the new-found party's election campaign.

An official at the Labor Ministry said Wednesday they include 12 from Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., 22 from Keumkang Development Co., 31 from Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and 21 from Hyundai Motor Co.

He said 26 were executives and 130 were employees.

A study made through local labor offices showed that in most cases replacements were not named and that other executives and employees were filling in for them.

"We wonder if these firms can function properly with such a system of concurrent service," the official said.

A business source said he thought that the failure to appoint replacements pointed to a plan to reinstate them after the elections.

The executives include three company presidents: Pak Se-yong from Hyundai Corp., Chung Chang-hyon from Keumkang Development, and Choe Su-il from Hyundai Heavy Industries.

Hyundai's Involvement Denounced

SK1803002092 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 17 Mar 92 p 7

[Article by reporter Pak Tae-o]

[Text] Heads of five economic organizations issued a statement strongly denouncing the Hyundai group for being involved in the elections. In connection with this, a well-informed source in economic circles revealed that "the government side has urged the economic organizations to issue such a statement for a month."

Accordingly, the heads of the economic organizations held meetings on several occasions to discuss the issue. They held the opinion that "it is not a matter in which economic circles officially intervene," however. They conveyed their "roundabout refusal" to the government through Pak Yong-hak, chairman of the Korean Trade Association [KTA]. The government side did not accept their intent at all, however. Therefore, it has been learned that they were forced to issue the statement. It has been confirmed that, in the process of issuing the statement, the KTA, which played a channel role, drew up the draft of the statement.

Because the Unification National Party [UNP] made this public on 16 March, business leaders, who belong to the Federation of National Industries [FNI], convened an emergency meeting and reached a consensus that "under the current circumstances, they cannot help accepting the government's demand."

In connection with this, an official of the FNI said that " Yu Chang-sun, FNI chairman, and the heads of most conglomerates were very displeased and said how on earth can the government do such a thing?" Considering this, economic circles are very displeased over the incident.

Because the drawing up of the statement, which had been promoted in secret, was abruptly made public and became the focus of people's attention, the five economic organizations issued the statement a day ahead of schedule.

In economic circles it is thought that one of the economic organizations, dissatisfied with the government's actions, brought this incident to public notice by informing the UNP.

Manpower Problems Due to Campaign Reported

SK1803041492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—So many workers have left their jobs in industry to work on election campaigns that it is causing manpower problems in several sectors, according to a manpower survey released Wednesday by the Labor Ministry.

More employees of construction, garment and leather companies than usual left their jobs during the first two weeks of this month, when campaigning got into full swing.

The situation is especially acute in the construction sector, where up to 8.4 percent of the workforce quit during the two-week period, compared with 2.7 percent in the like period last year.

A ministry official said that most of those who left were day laborers rather than permanent employees.

"It appears they resigned from laborious manual work in search of easier campaign work," he said.

The ministry polled 960 small- and medium-sized industrial companies nationwide employing less than 300 workers between March 14 and 16.

Of them, 93.5 percent said electioneering had not affected their manpower and 0.8 percent said some of their workers had left for campaign jobs.

Another 5.7 percent said there had been no change as yet but they feared the elections might affect them in the near future.

Those who left the 960 firms during the fortnight accounted for 4.3 percent of their total workforce, slightly less than the 5 percent in the corresponding period last year.

But the rate was 6 percent at garment-making firms and 5.5 percent in the leather industry, according to the survey.

Petroleum Use Rises, Raises Environmental Issue

SK1803074092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea's petroleum consumption is increasing every year despite international moves to restrict the use of fossil fuels to stop the so-called greenhouse effect.

The Energy and Resources Ministry said Wednesday that the use of petroleum accounted for 57.7 percent of the country's total energy consumption in 1991, up from 47 percent in 1988, 49.6 percent in 1989 and 53.6 percent in 1990.

The country's dependency on petroleum this year is projected to be 61.8 percent of total energy sources that include gas, coal, atomic and hydroelectric energies.

South Korea still heavily depends on petroleum despite a constant reminder by experts and some officials that the country will have to pay dearly if and when the world experiences another oil shock like the ones that were brought on by arbitrary decisions of the organization of the petroleum exporting countries in the 1970's, officials said.

Moreover, the country should look for sources of energy other than petroleum and coal as industrialized countries, including those in the european community, are trying to impose worldwide restrictions on the use of fossil fuels to avoid further warming of the earth's atmosphere, the officials said.

The EC has already proposed cutting the use of fossil fuels in the year 2000 to the level of 1990 and imposing a three-U.S.-dollar a barrel tax on crude oil from 1993, raising it by one dollar each year to 10 dollars a barrel by the year 2000.

According to the officials, the EC is set to announce the taxation plan in May, forcing developing nations like South Korea to overhaul their long-term energy policy.

South Korea's use of coal last year accounted for about 23.5 percent of the total energy consumption, bringing the combined use of petroleum and coal to 81.2 percent, the officials said.

Government Projects To Protect Enviroment

SK1803081692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0713 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea will spend 270 billion won (352 million U.S. dollars) over the next 10 years in some key projects aimed at protecting the environment, an Environment Ministry source said Wednesday.

The spending, part of the "G7 project" aimed at making Korea an advanced nation, includes 195.5 billion won (254 million dollars) from state coffers for development of alternative materials to chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), water and air pollution prevention technologies, and waste disposal technologies, according to a tentative plan.

The government will form an ad hoc committee chaired by the vice environment minister to decide and coordinate details of the environmental projects.

As for the CFC-related project, the Korea Institute of Science and Technology and Ulsan Chemical Co. will be commissioned to carry out a joint research and development, it was said.

To induce active participation by private enterprises, the government is considering tax benefits, the source said.

Double Subsidies Planned for Sci-Tech Research

SK1703231692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0711 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Chonju, March 17 (YONHAP)—Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon said Tuesday that the government will double its subsidies for research in basic sciences this year.

In a speech at a semiconductor research institute attached to Chonpuk National University, Kim said the government had already secured 120 billion won (156.4 million U.S. dollars) of budget to double its subsidy to model research institutes to 600 million won (782,000 dollars) each this year.

Korea should develop its own ultramodern technologies instead of asking advanced nations for them, Kim said.

* 1991 S&T Research Results Reviewed

922C0093A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korea 28 Dec 91 p 9

[Article by the S&T desk staff: "Summation of 1991 Technological Development"]

[Text] Enterprises and research institutes have been energetic in their technological development activities this year despite the economic doldrums. Particularly notable was products development in the electronics sector, especially in semiconductors, which are as vital to industry as rice is to our diet. There has also been a spate of new product development in genetic engineering and medicine. Dozens of applications were filed for the IR52 Chang Yong-il Award, which has become the most coveted S&T prize, in each field. This is interpreted as a reflection of the widespread awareness that without the development of science and technology is it impossible to gain an edge in international competition. This is borne out by the fact that as of the end of October this year, the patent applications totalled 95,314, 5.2 percent up from the comparable period in the previous year and that the number of patent registrations was 44,463, a slight increase. Our technological level remains still low, however, unable in particular to cope effectively with the feeble state of basic technology and the growing tendency toward the protection of intellectual property rights. Realizing the importance of technological development, our government has decided to unfold a policy of pushing forward with technological development. Under the plan to catapult our country into the ranks of technologically advanced nations on a par with the G Seven, it is pursuing the localization of key technologies by creating a 1-trillion won technology development fund.

Semiconductors

It was the semiconductor sector that was most active in technological development.

The Korea Electronic Telecommunications Research Institute [KETRI] became the first in the world to succeed in a next generation DRAM single device, the key technology in developing memory devices for high-performance semiconductors such as 256M DRAM.

The new product is of a vertical structure which is more than 50 percent smaller in size for each single unit compared with the existing horizontal structures. This new device, which uses bipolar transistors, operates three times as fast as the conventional single devices and its electricity consumption is only one-tenth.

Samsung Electronics developed a 16M mask ROM (read only memory device) capable of permanently storing 2 million characters of information on a single chip. This product is a memory device used in storing written and voice information for portable computers, translating machines, electronic dictionaries, laser printers, electronic musical instruments, and automatic answering machines. In addition, Samsung Electronics also succeeded in developing very high speed 1M DRAM chip with a processing speed of 10 nanoseconds (1 nanosecond is one-billionth of a second). All this demonstrates that Samsung has attained a world-class technology level.

Electronics, Computers

The development of semiconductors for electronic parts has been active also. Goldstar has become the first Korean company to develop an audio-source [umwon] IC, the supply of which it has hitherto relied on imports. The Electronic and Electric Research Association and Samsung Electronics jointly developed an IC for use in high-tech measuring devices. Goldstar Electric Machinery recently developed two kinds of photo censors, namely, a photo diode and a photo transistor, both key components of optic semiconductors. These censors are now on the market.

Research into artificial intelligence has also been active. The Institute of Production and Technology Research [IPTR] developed a neuro circuit IC, the key component of a neuro computer. Korea Telecom developed an ultra high-tech neuro-circuit chip whose intelligence level falls between those of a leech and an earthworm.

In the field of semiconductor manufacture, Goldstar succeeded in developing a thin film and wire for a high-temperature super conductor by the method of electrodeposition, and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology [KAIST] independently developed a tungsten thin film manufacturing technology used in LSI devices and a single crystal growth device for compound semiconductors. In the area of manufacturing devices, Mirae Industry succeeded in domestically producing a semiconductor testing machine.

Despite these successes in technological development, the development of high-tech soft ware, such as microprocessors and microcomputers, has been very sluggish. It is noted that in order for Korean-made semiconductors to stake out a unshakable place in the world market, efforts should be made to achieve an even development across the whole spectrum.

In the computer sector, the development of notebook personal computers and workstations may be mentioned first. In the case of notebook personal computers, Samsung Electronics, Goldstar, Daewoo Telecom, Hyundai Electronics, and Sambo Computer, and other firms developed their own models and put them on the market. As for workstations, many firms are selling them on the market, but the one developed by Samsung Electronics may be the only domestically manufactured version.

The success in the development of the medium-size computer Ticom [phonetic] is also worth mentioning. This success represents a victory won jointly by the industrial and academic sectors. What is more, Posdata [phonetic] succeeded in developing a written signal recognition system for a pen computer in a year following its inception, and Samsung Electronics also developed its own pen computer.

Samsung Electronics, Daewoo Information System, and Uju Precision have achieved the localization of the manufacture of optical filing systems. A single unit of one of these systems, which is called a mobile library, can store all the information contained in the data room of a medium-size enterprise. Samsung Electronics and Goldstar each developed an opto-magnetic disk and disk drive. These are not only on the domestic market but also being exported overseas.

Korea Telecom became the eighth company in the world to produce a 565 mega bps (bit per second) optical transmission system.

In peripheral devices, Goldstar and Samsung Electronics developed LBP (laser beam printer) engines for installation in their own products. A Four-Megabyte FDD (floppy disk drive) has also been developed.

In the home electric and electronic appliances sector, localization has been achieved in the manufacture of a high-speed digital electric transmission system and an ultra high-tech electroluminescence display [ELD] device, which is expected to take over as a high definition displaying device. In addition, Protech [phonetic], a medium-size enterprise, developed a high-tech composite-function machine capable of performing TV, VCR, and teletex functions at the same time. Goldstar's video printer is also one of the outstanding products.

In addition, HDTV (high definition TV) technology is under development, and in this connection, a large-size color LCD (liquid crystal display) is expected to appear on the market before long.

Genetic Engineering, Medicine

Most epochal were the discovery of a third-generation anticancer drug and a fourth-generation antibiotic made by Sunkyong Insurance's Science Research Institute and Lucky-Goldstar, respectively, and that of the cancer treating drug by Dr Cho Yun-san, a Korean resident in the United States. Sunkyong's third-generation anticancer drug are by far more effective than existing drugs, with a greater field of application and with much reduced side-effects. Lucky's fourth-generation antibiotic, with its efficacy recognized internationally, is being exported to Britain. The cancer-treating drug invented by Dr Cho Yun-sang is made of a substance which plays the role of changing cancerous cells into normal cells. His invention brings the complete cure of cancer closer to reality. The leukemia-causing cell was discovered for the first time in the world. In a related area, there was the discovery of a new strain of lactobacillus which has a high cancer-inhibiting property and which can survive in the stomach and intestines.

In the genetic engineering sector, the development of a DNA compound enzyme and of its mass production technology has been achieved. This enzyme is essential in copying DNA's in the living body. With the way for its mass production now open, a revitalization of life science research is expected. Also developed were a growth hormone for the cure of the growth stunting disease, an artificial heart-lung machine, a remedy for high blood pressure, and insulin PAS, which is an insulin drug absorbed by the skin, not administered by injection.

In the fine chemistry sector, the IPTR devised an electrostatic capacity type proximity censor, a key component in industrial automation, and the Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology [RIIST] produced nitric acid by utilizing gas generated in iron and steel mills. The KAIST developed corflon [phonetic] 22, a substitute for CFC (chlorofluorocarbon), and the Energy and Resources Research Institute [ERRI] and the Korea Energy Industry jointly developed a PSA oxygen enrichment device capable of producing oxygen from air at a low cost. The Sunkyong Intelligence Research Institute developed a polymer separating film production technology, which advanced nations are reluctant to transfer to other countries. The Lucky Research Center developed an acrylic shock-absorbant.

Machinery, Automobiles

In factory automation (FA) including automation in automobile manufacture, the current year has seen the development of automatic car production equipment, a measuring robot system used in car assembly, a car trip computer capable of monitoring the operating state of the car in motion at a glance, and an automatic low speed inducing mechanism. The Alpha engine, developed by Hyundai, is installed in cars sold on the market.

The automatic car manufacturing equipment developed by the Wooshin Systems are being supplied to Kia Motors, which has reduced its equipment investment cost by half thanks to the new equipment. The development of the high-performance Alpha engine is considered a feat which has raised the car engine manufacturing technology of our automobile makers onto a level on a par with the advanced nations.

Samsung Aerospace Industries developed a horizontal multi-joint robot capable of performing selective jobs through an application of module types. The Korea Automation Machinery succeeded in developing a robot for catapults with an outstanding safety feature which is attained through the adoption of a triple axle control system.

Others

Prominent among new products developed in the textile sector are the polypropylene single fiber, a material invented by Kolon for use in high-tech textiles; and the polypropylene yearn developed by Tongson Synthetic for use in high-grade carpets; and the biotextile produced by Yunghwa Biotex.

In the nuclear energy sector, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute [KAERI] developed a copper gas laser, which is currently in use; and Korea Electric Co and the KAERI jointly built a coolant monitoring device capable of determining the state of the nuclear fuel during atomic energy generation. This monitoring device is installed in the Kori nuclear power plant.

Chohung Electronics developed a magnetic fluid capable of absorbing electronic waves and is currently pushing ahead with the marketing of card protection devices which use this new product.

Table 1. Technological Development in 1991

Technology Developed	Inventor
Semiconductor crystal growth device	KAIST
audio source [umwon] IC	Goldstar
Next-generation DRAM single device	KETRI
Tungsten thin film producing technology	KAIST
16M mask DRAM	Samsung Electronics
Ultra high-tech neuro chips	Korea Telecom
High-temperature super conductive single crystal thin film manufacture, high-frequency passive element	KETRI
Polyimede	Samsung Institute for Comprehensive Technology Research
Screen printer	Taesong Engineering
Photo censor for optical semiconductor parts	Goldstar Instrument & Electric Co
Optoelectric IC	KETRI
Automobile trip computer	Daewoo Precision
Automatic automobile low speed inducing device	Sinin
Automobile Trouble Detection System	Hanyang University Prof. O Chae-ung
Automatic passenger car door opening/closing device	Tonga Special Precision
Automatic car producing equipment	Wooshin systems
Natural gas engine for heating and cooling	Korea Machinery Research Institute, Gas Corp
High-tech composite electronic products	Protech
Ultra pure water making technology	Samgwang Water Purifying Machinery
Special IC for measuring instruments	Electric & Electronic Research Association, Samsung Electronics
[chwichul] robot for catapults	Korea Automation Machinery
Bar-code recognition scanner	Goldstar Instrument and Electric
Car assembly measuring robot	KAIST, Hyundai
Horizontal multi-joint robot	Samsung Aerospace
Magnetic fluid	Chohung Electronics
Workstations	Samsung Electronics, Daewoo Information System, Uju Precision
Large-capacity optomagnetic disk	Goldstar

Optical transmission system	Korea Telecom
EL display element	KAIST
Written input recognition system for pen computers	Posdata
Notebook personal computers	Large computer firms
Laser printer engines	Goldstar, Samsung Electronics
Medium computer (Ticom)	Jointly by industry & academy
Process control computer	KAIST, Hwest Systems, Yua Electronics
Image processing digiterizer board	Union System
High-speed digital transmission system	Samsung Electronics
Pen Notebook personal computer	Samsung Electronics
Polypropylene single fiber	Kolon
Polypropylene carpet yarn	Tongson Synthetic
Acrylic-fiber shock absorber	Lucky Research Center
Bioceramic fiber	Yunghwa Biotextile
Atomic reactor coolant monitoring device	Korea Electric Power Co, KAERI
Double light-velocity laser flow tachometer	Korea Standards Research Institute
Plasma mass spectrograph	Korea Standards Research Institute
Copper gas laser	KAERI
Five-axle laser processing machine	Maritime Technology Research Institute
Organic waste processing method	KAIST
Waste water nonspillage system	Kolon, Sunkyong
PSA oxygen enrichment device	ERRI, Korea Energy Industry
Proximity censor	IPTR
High-temperature superconductivity technology	Goldstar
Polymer separating film manufacturing technology	Sunkyong Industries
polymerized DNA enzyme mass production technology	Genetic Engineering Research Institute
New strain of lactobacillus which can survive inside intestines	Genetic Engineering Research Institute
Substance causing aging process discovered in brain cell	Seoul University Prof. Pak Sang-chol
Enzyme insecticide	Seoul University Prof. Yi Chong-sop
Growth hormone for curing stunted growth	Lucky Research Center
Artificial heart-lung machine (Oxylex)	Green Cross Medical Corp, KAIST
Third-generation anti-cancer drug	Sunkyong Life Science Research Institute
High blood pressure remedy	Seoul University Prof. Yi Tae-chin
General purpose anticancer drug antitoxin (Lubisin)	Boryung Pharmaceutical, Yonsei University Prof. Yu Chu-hyon
Anticancer drug which restores cancerous cells to normal cells	Dr. Cho Yun-sang in U.S.
Cause of leukemia uncovered	Yonsei University Prof. Yi Won-yong
Laser instrument for medical treatment	Korea Space
Insulin pas	Korea Chemical Research Institute, Tong-Shin Pharm.
Fourth-generation antibiotics	Lucky
CFC substitute (corflon 22)	KAIST, Ulsan Chemical
Aluminum filtering film	IPTR, Dongsu Industrial

Burma

Opposition Leader on New Attitudes Towards Junta

BK1703104892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 17 Mar 92

[By Robert Holloway]

[Text] Sydney, March 17 (AFP)—The Thai authorities seem to be adopting a harder attitude towards the military regime in Rangoon, Burmese opposition leader Sein Win said here Tuesday.

"The Thai move is very significant," he told a hastily arranged news conference.

Sein Win, head of the parallel pro-democracy government that shares a jungle headquarters with Karen rebels at Manerplaw near the border with Thailand, was commenting on reports of fighting between Thai and Burmese forces.

Reports from Bangkok Tuesday quoted military sources as saying that Thai troops clashed with Burmese soldiers who tried to cross the border to outflank the Karens.

A Thai reconnaissance plane also returned fire after it was shot at by Burmese soldiers, the sources said.

"In 1989-90, when they started to attack Karen strongholds, they used Thai territory to attack from the rear," Sein Win said.

He said he thought there were two reasons for the change in Thai attitudes, namely the flood of refugees from Burma into Bangladesh, and Bangkok's awareness of its international image.

"What happened on Burma's western border in November and December, when refugees were attacked and fled into Bangladesh must have made them think very hard about the junta," he said.

"The junta's insistance on a military response to every question is creating a regional security problem."

According to officials in Bangladesh, more than 155,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled across the border and thousands more are still coming every day, fleeing alleged Burmese repression.

There are also about 60,000 refugees on Burma's border with Thailand, Sein Win said.

"We also think some may have crossed into China. This is not confirmed, but some refugees are saying there are others on the Chinese side. All neighboring countries are affected."

Secondly, he said, Thailand "is very aware of world opinion."

"They are a tourist country, they want a good image. The fact that I can go around the world meeting ministers of democratic countries must influence them."

Sein Win arrived in Australia on March 1 and has conferred with Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs Gerry Hand, and leaders of the opposition.

He is one of 11 MPs [members of parliament] who set up a parallel government in Manerplaw when the junta refused to relinquish power after the National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide election victory in May 1990.

Five MPs are in Manerplaw and six outside, Sein Win said.

The NLD won 396 of the 485 seats in parliament, "but its MPs are now scattered," he said.

"More than 70 were arrested, some are in hiding, some inside Burma, others outside."

The NLD's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, is under house arrest in Rangoon.

Sein Win said the junta was trying to take over the NLD "because it is the election-winning party and they want to use its name. That's why they didn't ban it."

Jailed MPs, including 18 of the NLD's 22-member central executive committee, had lost their seats and been replaced by junta stooges, he said, adding:

"They have had some success in deceiving the international community but they can't fool the people because we know who is who."

Sein Win said he still planned to return to Manerplaw, despite reports that plans were under way to evacuate the town following the capture of a strategic hill from the Karens by Burmese troops at the weekend.

Sein Win said he had heard that Sleeping Dog Mountain, which overlooks Manerplaw, had been recaptured, but reports from the area did not bear this out.

Minister Returns After Mekong Committee Meeting

BK1703145192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs, after attending a ministerial meeting of the Mekong basin states held in Thailand on 16 March 1992 at the invitation of the Thai foreign minister, arrived back in Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar [Burma] Airways this evening. The meeting was attended by Mekong basin countries.

U Ohn Gyaw was welcomed at Yangon Airport by Major General Myo Nyunt, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of Yangon Military Command; Brigadier General Thaung Myint, minister of social welfare, relief and resettlement; U Soe Tha, minister of communications, post, and telegraphs; Mr. (Thawatchai Sundrachan), Thai Charge d'affaires, and embassy officials; and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The foreign minister was accompanied by Daw Moe Thuza, personal officer.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Participation in Cambodian Peacekeeping Viewed

BK1403093892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The participation of the Malaysian contingent in the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia is very significant as a political settlement in that country will enhance peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Malaysia and other countries in the region will enjoy the effects from the lasting peace in Cambodia, especially in the context of economic development.

Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak urges all the 850 Malaysian military officers and men, who will be joining the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, to discharge their duties with full responsibility. He said this at a breakfast with a team from the 1st Ranger Regiment at (Mejidi) camp in the southern city of Johor Baharu. He also called on the Malaysian troops to not only assist in the peacekeeping efforts, but to also uphold the dignity of the country, which had provided similar services to Namibia with distinction. The Malaysian contingent will leave for Cambodia in stages. The first group will depart tomorrow and the second on the 23d of this month.

PRC Minister Ends Visit, Leaves for Indonesia

BK1403094292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia has identified two major development projects for participation by companies from China. Disclosing this, Public Works and Utilities Minister Datuk Leo Moggie declined to elaborate on the project directly. He said the details would be discussed between the Chinese companies and the government. The authorities are examining actively these development programs with a view to seeing that the country can come up with a government-to-government understanding with China.

He told reporters this at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport before the departure of Chinese Minister of Machine-Building and Electronic Industry He Guangyuan. Datuk Moggie said Chinese companies would also discuss with Tenaga Nasional Berhad [former National Electricity Board recently privatized] the possibility of taking part in some electricity development programs in Malaysia.

The Chinese minister, who left for Indonesia after a six-day visit, said China was ready to build reservoir and water-treatment plants and carry out power generation projects in Malaysia. Describing his visit as fruitful, he said he had gained the knowledge of the construction demand in Malaysia and will work toward the increasing bilateral trade and economic relations. He said Malaysia had prepared a policy to help government-to-government understanding with countries of the south to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

Sarawak Records Higher Trade Surplus in 1991

BK1703170092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] The state of Sarawak recorded a trade surplus of 4,802 million ringgit in 1991, which was 50 million ringgit, or one percent, higher than the surplus registered in 1990.

According to the Statistics Department, the state's total export revenue in 1991 amounted to 13,194 million ringgit. It out-performed 1990 by 1,911 million ringgit, or 17 percent. The favorable (?response) in the export sector was contributed through its substantial increase in the export earnings realized through the exports of liquified natural gas, LNG, and sawn logs. Three major export commodities LNG, sawn logs and crude petroleum generated a total export receipt of 9,494 million ringgit or 72 percent of the total value of exports of Sarawak in 91 [as heard].

Total goods imported amounted to 8,393 million ringgit in 91, which was 1,861 million ringgit, or 29 percent, more than the amount recorded in 90. Sixty-four percent of total increase was attributed to the higher imports of machinery and transport equipment.

The main trading partners of Sarawak in 1991 were Japan, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, the U.S. and the Republic of Korea.

Cambodia

Another Dissident Injured in Political Attack

BK1803092492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0800 GMT 18 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 18 (AFP)—Another Cambodian dissident was fighting for his life Wednesday after a suspected attack for political motives, despite the arrival of U.N. peacekeeping forces that had been hoped to end the violence.

Yang Horn, 55, a top aide in the leading opposition party of Ung Phan, is the fourth dissident to be wounded or killed in the Cambodian capital this year.

He was seriously injured Sunday night, hours after the arrival of men of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is to take control of the country's security situation pending elections.

Ung Phan, who was himself shot by drive-by attackers in January, was dining with Yang Horn and two police guards from the prison where they were jailed for trying to form a political party in 1990.

Yang Horn excused himself from the table, went outside to his car for a minute and never returned, Ung Phan said.

The official version of the incident, according to a driver who reportedly took Yang Horn to the hospital, was that he was knocked down by a motorbike.

Yang Horn's body, lying emaciated in a convulsive coma at a local hospital that kept losing its electricity supply, had a massive and bloody welt on the forehead, apparently caused by a severe blow.

There were no other signs of injury, no scrapes or bruises that would have been caused by being knocked down by a vehicle.

"According to the wound it seems he was attacked, but we don't know the true information," Ung Phan said.

While Ung Phan and the dissident's two daughters sitting at his bedside were reluctant to draw the conclusion of a political motive, they pointed to coincidences that made them suspicious of the accident story.

The day Ung Phan was shot, he said he received permission from the Phnom Penh government to set up an office for his party.

The day Yang Horn was injured, Ung Phan received a letter from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, allowing his party to operate without restrictions.

"I wonder why they are trying to wipe out my party," Ung Phan said, declining to specify who "they" might be.

"I don't know which party or faction would attempt to do this," he said. "They have not shown their faces yet."

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), one of the three groups fighting the Phnom Penh government until last October's Paris peace accords, has also been targeted.

Its acting editor of the country's only opposition newspaper was shot and wounded last week, and the KPNLF says its members in the provinces have also been attacked.

Ung Phan said the United Nations should do more to protect him and other dissidents.

"I don't want to die and not have given any benefit to my country," he said. "I would like UNTAC to protect all politicians, not only me. I don't want any politicians threatened by any party."

Former Phnom Penh government prime minister Pen Sovan, who was exiled 10 years ago and allowed to return only in January, has said he could not yet declare any political intentions.

"I cannot answer yet," he said in an interview Tuesday in southern Takeo city. "The United Nations will be disarming the four factions. At that moment only will the people of Cambodia have freedom."

Meanwhile, the daughters of Yang Horn said they had asked UNTAC to evacuate their father to a hospital in Bangkok where he could have brain surgery which is not available in Cambodia.

They said a first request to evacuate him by their own means was refused by the Phnom Penh Foreign Ministry, and they were making a second try using a letter written by the humanitarian organization Medecins du Monde.

UNTAC officials said they were studying the situation, but that it would be risky to evacuate a man with a head injury.

The daughters told their mother, who is also gravely ill, only that her husband had had an accident and was not seriously injured.

"If we tell her the truth, she will have a heart attack and die," 19-year-old Chantrea said.

PDK Responds to UN General's Accusations

BK1803033692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Our station has just received a message from a group of Cambodian observers responding to the accusation by General Loridon that Democratic Kampuchea fired on the helicopter of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC]. Our station would like to broadcast this message as follows:

Clarification from the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] concering the accusation by General Loridon that Democratic Kampuchea fired on a UNAMIC helicopter.

1. Recently, General Loridon, military chief of UNAMIC, told reporters that the PDK fired on a UNAMIC helicopter in Kompong Thom.

2. The Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces do not need to dispute with General Loridon, and this particularly refers to UN personnel in Cambodia, because the Cambodian nation, people, and entire Cambodian national resistance forces have struggled for more than 13 years to achieve the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. Now that there is an agreement, the Cambodian nation, people, and Cambodian national resistance forces have made efforts to implement the agreement well, correctly, and meticulously in accordance with the spirit and real essence of

the agreement. On this point, peace- and justice-loving people in the world know clearly the stance of the Cambodian nation, people, and Cambodian national resistance forces.

3. Regarding the accusation by General Loridon against the PDK, we reserve the right to provide the following clarification:

a) General Loridon unilaterally accused the PDK without UNAMIC consensus. This view is not one resulting from gathering all Cambodian parties' views on the issue;

b) According to the Paris agreement, UNAMIC, like the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], is neutral and non-biased. Everything should be decided by consensus by UNAMIC or UNTAC in cooperation with the four Cambodian parties. The rules and agreement are clear in order to avoid bias toward this or that party, which would not end war in Cambodia but instead fuel it.

4. The Cambodian nation, people, and Cambodian national resistance forces propose that all Cambodian parties, UNAMIC, and UNTAC pay attention to correctly and meticulously implementing the agreement in its essence, legal mandate, and legal procedure so that it will benefit implementation of the Paris agreement to move toward ending Vietnam's war of aggression as planned and to have free elections in Cambodia so the latter has a National Assembly and a new national government in an independent, unified, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned Cambodia;

5. The Cambodian nation, people, and Cambodian national resistance forces are resolutely determined to provide the best cooperation with all Cambodian parties, UNAMIC, UNTAC, and other parties concerned with the Paris agreement by firmly standing on the Paris agreement in its spirit, essence, legal mandate, and legal procedure.
[Dated] 16 March 1992
[Signed] A group of Cambodian observers

Ta Mok Accused of Wanting To Subvert Peace

BK1803030092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0224 GMT 18 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Takeo, Cambodia, March 18 (AFP)—Ta Mok, the one-legged Khmer Rouge commander blamed for blocking Cambodia's peace process by continuing war and attacking UN peacekeepers, is a butcher, those who remember him here in his home province say.

Ta Mok controlled southwest Cambodia under Pol Pot's brutal reign from 1975 to 1979. Accounts of his rule say he directed the executions of more than 100,000 fellow Khmer Rouge from his serene white house built on a lake island.

The Swiss Red Cross now operates in his former home. "There are no ghosts here," its chief cook said as she prepared dinner.

But others remember the brutality.

"He was the chief of the butchers," said one elderly villager who remembered that while Ta Mok would do anything for his loyalists—including giving the watch off his wrist to someone who asked for it—he simply eliminated all those he believed betrayed the radical communist ideals of the Khmer Rouge.

Despite the peace treaty signed last year to end Cambodia's nearly 13-year civil war, Ta Mok has not given up. Now commanding the Khmer Rouge forces in north-central Cambodia, his troops have launched the worst cease-fire violations, UN officials said.

The head of the Australian contingent of the UN peacekeeping forces was shot and wounded last month when Chinese-made M-16 guns were fired at a UN helicopter over Ta Mok's territory.

The Khmer Rouge have denied involvement by his faction. But UN officials and the other three factions say that, acting under orders or not, the shots could only have come from Khmer Rouge soldiers who are supplied with such weapons.

"There is a commander still interested in war... Ta Mok," Prince Norodom Sihanouk told the head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, on his arrival Sunday.

"I wish Mr. Akashi and UNTAC would persuade Ta Mok to join us in the peace process. He is a warmonger," the prince said.

UN officials have told Khmer Rouge Defense Minister Son Sen to bring Ta Mok into line or face action by the UN Security Council.

Those who know Ta Mok think that might be difficult.

"He is trying to destroy the peace of Cambodia," Pen Sovan, the head of the Phnom Penh government until he was sent into exile in Vietnam 10 years ago, said in an interview Tuesday.

Pen Sovan was Ta Mok's bodyguard while the latter was an official under the French colonial government before independence in 1954. He ended up in Vietnam plotting the overthrow of Ta Mok and the Khmer Rouge 25 years later.

"He is the cruelest one after Pol Pot," Pen Sovan said, telling a tale of forced labor in which a group of peasants who could produce only two tons of rice instead of the six tons ordered by Ta Mok were hacked to death.

"If they could not (cultivate enough) he would kill them, hundreds and hundreds of them. He was the absolute dictator in Takeo Province," Pen Sovan said. "As people could not do as he wished, he killed them all."

Khay Choun, 43, remembers his days as a Khmer Rouge soldier under Ta Mok's command: "He never killed by himself. He gave orders to kill to others, and during the killings he would say they (the victims) are traitors."

But looking out at the rice paddies, which are still cultivated nearly as far as the eye can see from Ta Mok's white house, the old soldier said his commander was not all bad.

"A good thing was he made this field," he said. "A bad thing was he killed people."

Troop Control, Dissolution, SRV Pullout Urged

BK1803022292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] On 3 March the Vietnamese aggressors brought seven truckloads of ammunition and war materiel to their forces in Stoung District [Kompong Thom Province] to continue attacking the resistance forces and to kill our people in that area.

Reports say that at the same time the Vietnamese aggressors brought three tanks and two batteries of multiple rockets to San Kor to attack, intervene, and assist their engaged forces.

This is another violation by the Vietnamese aggressors of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to solve and end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. The Vietnamese aggressors have no motivation to abide by any agreement; their aim is to do their utmost to attack the resistance forces and kill the Cambodian people in this 14th dry season because:

1. Vietnamese aggressor forces still control the state authority of the Phnom Penh group from top to bottom;

2. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] still has not come and cooperated with the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, to ensure that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia;

3. As for the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, it has only a handful of staff. Even if the Vietnamese aggressors violate the agreement, UNAMIC cannot deploy its control forces. The Cambodian nation and people, through their many years of struggle, know the Vietnamese aggressors inside out. The Cambodian nation and people will not allow the Vietnamese aggressors to do whatever they wish. The Cambodian nation and people are united in the great national union and are using their full rights as victims to carry out all types of activities to smash and rout the Vietnamese aggressors' offensive in the 14th dry season until UNTAC and the SNC, chaired by the prince head of state:

A. Ensure that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia; and

B. Disarm and dissolve the four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces.

Shipments of SRV War Materiel Described

BK1503031092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] On 8 March, the Vietnamese aggressors in the 2d Military Region, Kompong Cham, brought two more 130-mm multiple rocket batteries to their forces in the 5th Division, which are launching offensives against the Cambodian national resistance forces and killing our people in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts, Kompong Thom Province.

On 9 March, the Vietnamese aggressors in the same 2d Military Region, Kompong Cham, brought three truckloads of B-40 rockets and 60-mm mortar shells to their forces at other places.

Reports also clearly say that these multiple rockets and shells were brought in along Route 6 through Kompong Thom provincial town, which is an outpost of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia]. People clearly know that the Vietnamese aggressors do not respect the agreement; they do not care about anyone. They are making efforts to wipe out the resistance forces to achieve Vietnam's Indochinese Federation strategy.

Our Cambodian people in Stoung District have full rights to defend their liberated villages and are determined to smash and rout the Vietnamese aggressors' offensive and coming attacks until the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the Supreme National Council check and ensure that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

Shelling in Kompong Thom Province Condemned

BK1803013292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] On 11 March, the Vietnamese aggressors fired many multiple rockets and artillery to destroy villages and kill people in (Preah), Sramar, Mreak, and Tuol Kreul villages in Kompong Thom Province, killing eight people, burning many people's houses and killing cattle.

This is another clear violation of human rights and the 23 October 1991 agreement by the Vietnamese aggressors. There have been successive violations of the Cambodian people's human rights and the agreement.

Our people in Stoung District demand that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council cooperate in ensuring that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are quickly withdrawn from Cambodia. In particular, checkpoints should be set up in eastern, central, and western Cambodia and Phnom

Penh at the same time in order to prevent the Vietnamese aggressors from bringing in forces and ammunition to their forces in Cambodia so that they can continue violating the Paris agreement and occupying Cambodia.

The people in Kompong Thom Province hold that ony when the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces in Cambodia is checked can other issues be resolved.

3 March Fighting in Kompong Speu Noted

BK1403011092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Excerpt] On 3 March the Vietnamese aggressors in the 3d Military Region assembled their forces and, with the support of artillery fire and multiple rockets, attacked the national resistance forces and our people who were fleeing arrest and execution by the Vietnamese aggressors at Phnum Srang in Kong Pisei District, Kompong Speu Province.

This attack by the Vietnamese aggressors resulted in eight people being killed, including three children. Our people were forced to unite and fight back and repulse the aggressors. During their retreat these Vietnamese aggressors fired many artillery shells and multiple rockets, killing cattle and burning a number of houses and our people's paddy. [passage omitted]

Indonesian Envoy Views Role of Peacekeeping Force

BK1603153892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1134 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 16 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesian Ambassodor to Cambodia Taufik Rakhman Sudardo said, the Supreme National Council (SNC) believed that by sending Garuda XII troops on behalf of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, Indonesia could help create a stable security in the country.

The belief was expressed by some SNC officials in some SNC meetings. They said that Indonesian Government is a peacemaker of their country, Taufik said at a press conference here over the weekend.

Ambassador Taufik said that both the government in Cambodia and SNC have the same opinion that the presence of Garuda XII troops in the country is a follow up of Indonesia's efforts to create real peace in Cambodia.

The presence of the Indonesian troops in Cambodia organized by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), firstly came from Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Although now the Indonesian troops were placed around the capital city of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, SNC expects that Garuda XII will accompany Cambodian refugees who want to participate in the general elections in 1993, Taufik said.

Indonesia is an old friend of Cambodia, so there is very little possibility that misunderstanding between Indonesian troops and Cambodian people will occur, an SNC official said as quoted by Taufik.

Now, Garuda XII troops are placed at a main post in Phnom Penh in a building which used to be a campus of the Cambodian Military Academy. The post is located 200 kms south of Phnom Penh.

The Indonesian troops were departed from Surabaya seaport Tanjung Perak a week ago.

The three warships which carried them, including ANTARA's reporter Priyambodo, are KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Teluk Semangka, KRI Teluk Penyu, and KRI Teluk Ende.

After six days in their voyage, the three ships reached Kompong Som seaport. From here, the contingent will depart to their main post by air.

After reaching the main post, the troops members should clean up the building which was neglected for about 13 years caused by war in the country.

Sihanouk Chairs Red Cross Committee Meeting

BK1703063192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] On 13 March at the Khemarin Palace, a meeting of the Cambodian Red Cross was held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council.

Jean-Jacques Fresard, representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], was also present. The meeting discussed and exchanged views on the plans to participate in the ICRC day to be held on 8 May. The meeting also discussed the establishment of a blood donation day, to be held shortly, under the directive of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk called on the Red Cross committees of the four Cambodian parties to closely unite by cooperating well with the ICRC, represented by Jean-Jacques Fresard, to perform the task of receiving refugees to be repatriated from Thailand at the end of this month.

Planning Ministry Reports Investment Situation

BK1603065692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0220 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 15 Mar (SPK)—According to the Investment Office of the Cambodian Planning Ministry, 22 Cambodian and foreign companies have invested in the agricultural sector, particularly in forest exploitation, since the peace agreement was signed in Paris in October 1991.

Thirteen companies from Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, France, Vietnam, Japan, and Malaysia have signed agreements to exploit a total of 1,080,000 cubic meters of timber in 1992.

Concerning pepper, tobacco, rubber, and eucalyptus, there are five more interested companies in Thailand, New Zealand, Belgium, Switzerland, and Singapore while only one Thai company is interested in fishing.

Indonesia

Official on 'Measures' Due to Dili Incident

BK1803141692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0728 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno said here on Tuesday that the measures taken against a number of ABRI members in connection with the November 12 incident were not intended to find out mistakes, but to account for responsibility.

"The Armed Forces take the measures to account for every responsibility of the task and duties they carry on their shoulder," The Armed Forces chief told the House's Security and Defence Affairs Commission here on Tuesday.

During the hearing which was chaired by Ipik Asmasubrata, Gen. Try said that the Armed Forces would not be irritated and upset by the incident even though it had left ABRI holding the bag.

As a fighting soldier, ABRI is aware of the challenges and risks of its tasks, the general said adding: "Therefore, we should not blame each other."

A commission member, Andi Cela Nurdin, has previously requested the Armed Forces commander to reconsider the punishment that had been given to a number of ABRI members because their actions during the November 12 incident in Dili, capital of East Timor, were not deliberate ones.

Try Sutrisno explained further that as a country which held the laws to its high esteem, Indonesia would always address any emerging problems with the existing laws, and that ABRI members who were given sanctions in connection with the incident would be given a chance to defend themselves in court.

He said that the Armed Forces should take the essence of the result of the Military Honorary council's (DKM) examination for their own improvement.

The incident has given valuable lessons on the need to increase sensitiveness and responsiveness of the government's apparatuses against all sociopolitical, cultural, and economic problems, the Armed Forces chief said.

Official Claims E. Timor Food Shortages Eased

BK1803134092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0737 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Dili (East Timor), Mar 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—Food scarcity problem which used to be haunting East Timor in the last seven years has been prevailing no more as the result of the increasing welfare and better economic growth in the province.

Between 1976 and 1984, several areas in the 27th province of Indonesia were known to always suffer from food scarcity problem, Head of the East Timor Agriculture Office Dady Ganda Sukaryo said here Wednesday.

However, in line with the increasing usage of new farming technology and the availability of reliable irrigation network, the problem could be phased out since 1985.

He also said the success in eliminating food scarcity was also thanks to the better security maintenance in the province which formerly was a Portuguese colony.

According to Sukaryo, East Timor's rice production totaled 56,688 tons, corn 90,277 tons, and beans 5,863 tons last year.

Rice supply from other provinces decreased as well from 22,358 tons in 1989 to 10,000 tons in 1991.

Corn since 1989 has no longer been supplied from other province, Sukaryo said.

New Satellite Control Station for West Jakarta

BK0803131192 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 26 Feb 92 p 8

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Apart from preparing to shift the Palapa B-1 communications satellite from its current orbital position on 4 March and to launch the Palapa B-4 satellite in April, Telkom Indonesia Ltd. Co., is now constructing a new main ground control station [SPU] in Daan Mogot, West Jakarta. The construction of this station is to facilitate the operations of the current Palapa B generation, namely the B-2-P and B-2-R Palapa satellites as well as the coming generation of Palapa C satellites, one of which will be launched in 1995.

This was disclosed to KOMPAS last week by Sahala Silalahi, chief of Territorial Operations Division of the Domestic Communications Satellite System. A new station is being constructed because the current station at Cibinong will no longer be operational between five to 10 years from now. Besides, the current station faces the problem of cement dust from a cement factory about one km away. However, Silalahi said the dust is only a minor disturbance. A Cibinong SPU official has also disclosed that lightning often strikes at the station's satellite dishes as the area has a high frequency of lightning occurrence.

The construction of the new SPU at Daan Mogot started in November 1991 with foundation work being carried out at present. The 39 billion rupiah construction project is scheduled for completion in 1993. The new station will replace the current one at Cibinong, Bogor, which will no longer be operational in five to 10 years. The current station, used since 1976, has a service age of 25 years.

With the operation of the new station at Daan Mogot in 1993, the current Cibinong station will cease its control of Palapa B-2-P, B-2-R, and B-4 satellites. The Cibinong station will then be used as a back-up, aid the launching of new satellites and control of older ones, as well as for training. "When its service age has indeed expired, it can at least be used as a museum," added Silalahi. [passage omitted]

Company 'Undaunted' by Competitors

BK1603164092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1000 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Telecommunications Indonesia Co. Ltd. is undaunted by the planned launching of satellites by fellow ASEAN countries or the already launched satellites by other Asian countries. Speaking in Bandung today, (Agina Siti Fatimah), chief of the company's External Public Relations Division said that to cope with the planned launching of satellites by Thailand and Malaysia, the company has made necessary preparations, including the earlier launching of the Palapa B-4 satellite in May, which was originally scheduled for launching in 1993. The new launching schedule is caused by some quarters' concern that there will be a keen competition in telecommunications satellite business within the region.

Palapa B-4 To Be Launched in Apr

BK1003132492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0735 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] Yogyakarta (Central Java), Mar 10 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia's Palapa B-4 satellite was scheduled to be launched in April 1992 at the Cape Canaveral Space Center, Florida, USA, H. Taufik Akbar, a candidate astronaut from Indonesia, revealed here on Monday.

At a lecture on "an expose on preparations for the launching of Palapa B-4 satellite" before students and teaching staff of the Technical Faculty of The yogyakarta-based Gajah Mada University (UGM), he further revealed that the satellite would be operational from nine to 12 years.

The B-4 satellite would replace the Palapa B-2-R and B-2-P which would no longer be operational by 1995 and 1998 respectively.

Control on the Palapa B-4 would be conducted from the Cibinong (West Java) earth station which was the main link of Indonesia's SKSD (Domestic Satellite Communication System).

According to Taufik Akbar, the Palapa B-4 satellite was the last of the B generation of satellites, which was able to cover the ASEAN region, Hong Kong, and Papua New Guinea (PNG).

At the same occasion, Taufik also explained about the failure experienced during the launching of the Palapa B-2 satellite.

However, the satellite could later be retrieved and repaired and launched again under the name Palapa B-2-P satellite.

He also explained technically the significance of the launching of the Palapa B-4 satellite.

Apart from Taufik Akbar, the general manager of the Development and Training Center of Telkom state corporation, Surato, also gave a lecture about Telkom's human resources program until the year 2000.

The lecture organized by the UGM's Technical Faculty and Telkom and attended by about 250 UGM students, was aimed at providing full scale information about the launching and use of the Palapa B-4 satellite as well as to attract Technical faculty students to join the Telkom ranks.

Mediation of Thailand-Burma Border Conflict Urged

BK1803141892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Indonesia should make efforts to solve the armed conflict between Thailand and Myanmar [Burma] along their common border. Speaking to reporters today when he was asked about Indonesia's stand on the conflict, Imron Rosyadi, chairman of the parliament's Commission I [in charge of defense and foreign affairs] said that Indonesia should take steps which are suitable to the region's cultural values.

Imron Rosyadi noted that an Asian cultural approach to solve problems will be more appropriate than a Western one, which often resorts to violence, show of force, trade embargo, or boycott.

SRV Needs Assistance in Military Maintenance

BK1403045292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The SRV Government needs cooperation and technical assistance from Indonesian Armed Forces consultants in maintaining its military equipment. This was disclosed by Lieutenant Colonel (Marbun Sardan), the Indonesian defense attache in Vietnam, who added that that country badly needs the consultants because there is a lot of military equipment in Vietnam that needs maintenance and repair services.

Lt. Col. (Marbun) said the Indonesian Embassy in Hanoi welcomes the SRV's request even though a more detailed study on the matter is needed, especially on that country's military system. The planned cooperation will also serve as a means of exchanging knowledge in maintaning and repairing various types of military equipment because Indonesian Armed Forces personnel are believed to have a lot of experience in these fields. The defense attache also noted that the SRV Government wants the Indonesian Government to take part in its development programs, especially in the mining and service sectors. As for coal mining, the Indonesian Department of Defense and Security and a private company are now looking into possible ways to invest in that country.

Laos

'Success' of SPA Assembly Session Detailed

BK1703125192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Mar 92

[17 March PASASON editorial: "Hail the Glorious Success of the Eighth Plenary Session of the Supreme People's Assembly"]

[Text] Respected listeners, as you already know, on 13 and 14 March, the eighth plenary session of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was convened in Vientiane under the chairmanship of SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan. The SPA session—which was concluded with brilliant success—endorsed the 1992 socioeconomic development plan and budget for our state.

During the two-day session, the participants heard a government report presented by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance, on implementation of the socioeconomic development plan and the state budget for the year 1991, reviewing and assessing some weak and strong points as lessons to be learned for the future. At the same time, the session also heard a report proposing the draft plan on the direction of the socioeconomic development and the draft state budget for 1992 for debate and approval by the SPA for official implementation.

The 1992 draft socioeconomic development plan and state budget proposed by the government were thoroughly debated by the SPA members at the session with a high sense of responsibility and were finally endorsed with a unanimous vote by the SPA's eighth plenary session.

The socioeconomic development plan and state budget endorsed by the SPA's eighth plenary session have been formulated through the process of the new thinking and economic management mechanisms on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Judging from the objectives and expectations spelled out in the 1992 socioeconomic development plan and state budget, it should be noted that the duty of our entire party, Army, and people is to continue inseparably fulfilling the two strategic tasks of simultaneously defending and building the country. To do this, we must concentrate special efforts on building the foundations for the national economy, such as by building communications and agricultural production facilities to bring a new face to the economic foundations in our country, thereby contributing to improving the living conditions of the multiethnic Lao people.

It is now certain that the 1992 state plan and budget have been correctly and legally endorsed by the SPA. The important thing for us to do now is to see how we are going to translate this plan and budget into reality to bring effective results to our country. In addition to the government and services concerned, it is also the duty of our entire people to actively implement this plan and budget with a view to bringing about genuine achievements as expected in the speech delivered by SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan at the closing ceremony of the session, which said: Socieconomic development is the duty of all the masses. With a high sense of determination, we must overcome numerous difficulties, make tremendous sacrifices, and contribute a great deal of wisdom and material wealth for the fulfillment of this duty. All business sectors and individual persons with earnings from various sources must display a sense of honesty and sincerity by fulfilling their obligations toward the country to allow it to accumulate adequate funds in full to meet state budgetary requirements. Cadres engaging in tax collection work must thoroughly carry out their duties. As for the services which are involved with the administration of the state budgetary expenditure, they must be well versed in economic management dealings by investing every single Lao kip for the highest gain to the country and people. We must heighten a sense of economizing time, energy, and money for the highest degree of efficiency. This means that we must heighten a sense of patriotism and our love of the new regime as well as a sense of mastership to build our own strength by ourselves and to firmly become the masters of our own country. Only by mobilizing our people to develop such a sense of awareness will we be able to effectively fulfill the 1992 socioeconomic development plan and state budget endorsed by the SPA's eighth plenary session.

Report on Socioeconomic Development in 1991

BK1703075592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Socioecnomic development was forcefully carried out in 1991, thus resulting in an increase in the net domestic production by about 4 percent compared to 1991. Average per capita income was registered at 156,000 kip or 220 dollars per year.

According to a government report on economic development in 1991, our country was last year devastated by natural disasters. The production of monsoon rice was recorded at 1 million metric tons. Some progress was made in animal husbandry. The government laid down new measures to control forestry business, thus increasing forestry production by 23.2 percent compared with that in 1990. The annual growth of industrial production and construction business continuously increased from 13 percent in 1989, 14.2 percent in 1990, and 17.8 percent in 1991.

The total value of trade services, transportation, banking, and other services also increased by 2.8 percent compared with that in 1991. Foreign investment in Laos amounted to 49 million dollars. International organizations and international financial institutes provided gratis assitance and loans worth U.S. $628 million, 75 percent of which was spent for the construction of the socioeconomic structure.

The inflation rate declined gradually as the price index dropped from 9.6 percent in late 1990 to 7.4 percent in late 1991.

In the past, the government made efforts to promote production of commodities for export. According to incomplete statistics, the revenue from exports and service in 1991 was U.S.$120 million, representing an increase of 30 percent compared with 1990.

Bank foreign currency reserves in late December 1991 were fairly high, three times [words indistinct].

1991 Budgetary Revenue at 78.96 Billion Kip

BK1403113292 Vientiane KPL in English 0938 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, 14 March (KPL)—Figures provided by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance indicate that 1991 state revenue of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] reached 78.96 billion kip, 99.3 per cent of the plan (a 30.5 per cent increase compared to the previous year).

The main revenue source was taxation amounting to 56.76 billion kip (6.2 per cent over the plan and 35 per cent over 1990).

This was thanks to the measures applied, consistent with the mechanism for implementing the tax policy of the state by combining two main factors: calculation and inspection.

With regard to state expenditure for 1991, the Lao PDR experienced a budgetary deficit of 103.7 billion kip out of a total expenditure of 182.7 billion kip. In order to balance the main expenditure, the country relied partially on foreign aid and bond sales.

Targets of Revenue for 1992 Budget Outlined

BK1703103892 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, 17 March (KPL)—A target figure of the revenue specified in the 1992 socioeconomic development plan and budget already approved by the recent eighth session of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) was set at about 110.32 billion kip, 40 percent over the last year.

Of the target revenue, 74.96 billion kip will come from taxes and fees, 22.20 billion from state property lease and sales, and 13.15 billion kip from technical activities.

As far as the budgetary expenditure in this year was concerned, it was to be implemented along the new mechanism through contract form and by dividing it into expenditure plans of 205.3 billion kip in total. These were made up of two major parts: the first amounting to 20.5 billion kip was for provinces, and the second to 184.8 billion kip was for government public services. The latter was the adjustment part of the government. This covered 34.1 billion kip for salary, 26.8 billion kip for administrative spending, and 89 billion kip for 916 infrastructure construction projects and others in each locality.

With the actual capacity to accumulate revenue within the country, the budget will see a deficit of about 94.98 billion kip. However, to ease the deficit the government has a source of foreign aid totalling about 105.36 billion kip: 35.36 billion kip in currency and commodity, and 70 billion kip in infrastructure construction project.

In short, the government will have about 10.38 billion kip as its reserve.

Report on Outcome of Conference on Agriculture

BK1803063992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] A nationwide conference on agriculture and forestry work for 1992 was opened in the capital, Vientiane, in order to review the country's agricultural and forestry production in the years following the first conference in 1988 and to work out a direction and plan for boosting the agricultural and forestry production from this year to 1995 and on to 2000. Participating in the conference were 130 officials in charge of agriculture and forestry work from 17 provinces nationwide along with representatives of model farmer families, rural development agencies, ministries and agencies concerned, and international organizations in Laos. The conference was opened on 9 and closed on 14 March with brilliant success.

Representatives of the 12 model farmers and three development agencies told the conference about their experiences in the production of agricultural commodities, animal husbandry, and the cultivation of fruit trees. The agriculture and forestry services of the 17 provinces reported on their past performance and their plans of action. The representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance; the Ministry of Trade and Tourism; the State Bank; and central agencies reported on the development of agriculture, forestry, and water sources.

During the conference, participants exchanged views in a full and open manner.

Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry, presented reports on the third five-year plan from 1991 to 1995 and the 1992 plan for the agricultural and forestry development.

The conference unanimously endorsed the plans for food supply production, cessation of slash-and-burn cultivation, promotion of commodity production, rural development in years to come, and effective management of agriculture and forestry agencies. The food supply production plan for the period from now to 1995 will concentrate on rice cultivation on five major plains, namely, Vientiane, Paksan-Pakding, Sebangfai, Sebanghiang-Sedone, and Champassak, for domestic consumption and a food stockpile. At the same time, animal husbandry will be actively promoted, especially on three plains, namely, Xieng Khouang, Nakai, and Boliven. The conference endorsed the direction, plan, and procedure for mobilizing the people to put an end to the slash-and-burn cultivation by finding new careers for them which will enable them to settle permanently. Such people can earn their living from rice cultivation, animal husbandry, and production of commodities. More efforts must be exerted to futher develop rural areas and cottage industry. In short, ministries and provincial administrations act as the commander, district administrations as coordinators, and village administrations as units in charge of executing the production plans. The real producers are the farming families. The four capital sources—public saving, private sector, foreign countries, and state budget—must be fully exploited. A taxation policy along with favorable conditions must be created to facilitate agricultural and forestry development in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Economy Minister Discusses Geneva Conference

BK1303124592 Vientiane KPL in English 0928 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 13 (KPL)—Mr. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance, who just returned home from the roundtable conference on Laos in Geneva, has granted an interview to PASASON daily newspaper on the outcome of the conference.

Asked about the background of the roundtable conference, the economy minister said the roundtable conference is held every year since 1980 as proposed by the 33 least developed countries in the world to draw the attention of developed countries, international organisations and financial institutions to the least developed countries. The last one for Laos was the fourth, he said.

K. Keoboualapha said the roundtable conference for Laos this year was participated by representatives from two groups: 15 developed countries (normally 16 because Great Britain was not present), international organisations and financial institutions. In addition to the Lao Government delegation at the meeting, there were UNDP [UN Development Programme] officials and the UNDP representative to Laos.

He said the participants appreciated Laos' present stability politically and economically. They were convinced that Laos has the potential to gradually advance.

What we could gather from the participants is their support to Laos, especially for its economic policy which moves toward a market economy, Khamphoui Keoboualapha said.

According to the chairman of the conference, he said, already many countries and international organisations proposed to the presidium that they were willing to contribute funds toward socioeconomic development in Laos.

Through the conference, the Lao Government requested for U.S. $700 million fund for the five-year development programme under which over 30 projects have already been prepared, he said.

During the session alone, the World Bank's representative decided to provide a U.S. $150 million fund in three years, U.S. $50 million annually, the organisation for rural development agreed to provide a U.S. $4 million grant aid, while the others accepted to inform the development policy of Laos to their respective governments for considering aid for Laos.

The chairman of the conference disclosed that there was a possibility to mobilize fund up to U.S. $400 million for Laos in the next three years and up to U.S. $300 million in the following two years as requested by the Lao Government, Khamphoui Keoboualapha said.

He concluded that the presidium of the conference assessed it as more successful than expected. However, he said, still a number of problems needed a prompt solution. These involved lack of detailed schedule in the coordination of the work which made it difficult for donors, and much delay in the organised implementation of the foreign aid projects. This required more attention be given to personnel training.

Philippines

Aquino Agrees to U.S. Use of Cubi Point

HK1703133392 Quezon City DWDD Armed Forces Radio in Tagalog 1300 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Program broadcast in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has agreed in principle to the use of Cubi Point in Subic Naval Base by the United States. President Aquino assured that the agreement from the mutual defense treaty slated this week will not violate the constitution.

In her statement read by Press Secretary Horacio Paredes, the president stated that the agreement will not allow American troops to stay in the Philippines in addition to the maintenance of a base in the country.

[Begin Paredes recording] [word indistinct] believes that there is any need to go into further details. There will be nothing that would violate the constitutional prohibition on troops, bases and facilities. [end recording]

Police Rescue Kidnapped American Businessman

HK1803071892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 18 Mar 92

["Flash report" by Joe Capadocia at Camp Crame]

[Text] It has been confirmed that Michael Barnes has been rescued safely by the Philippine National Police in an operation launched today in Paranaque. Colonel Lastimoso, Task Force Gemini chief, confirmed that Barnes was recovered in Paranaque, on Quirino Avenue, Las Pinas, at around 1330.

Businessman Meets Press

HK1803094292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 18 Mar 92

[News conference held by Cesar Sarino, Philippine Department of Interior and local government secretary; Major General Cesar Nazareno; and U.S. businessman Michael Barnes, at the Multipurpose Hall of Camp Crame on 18 March; first five paragraphs are announcer's remarks—recorded]

[Excerpts] Michael Barnes has been safely recovered by members of the military's Task Force Gemini, headed by Chief Superintendent Roger Dayla, Philippine National Police [PNP] deputy chief for operations. The operations began at 0300 this morning when the military raided a house at 31 Teodora Drive, Merlie Homes, Marikina.

Three suspected members of the Red Scorpion Group, headed by Alfredo de Leon, were killed. According to General [Cesar] Nazareno, it cannot yet be established if De Leon was captured. He said that there is still a need to review the reports filed with him to determine if De Leon was among those who were killed during the raid, or if he was arrested.

Nazareno said that Barnes will be taken to a hospital first to undergo a thorough medical check, after which he will be turned over to U.S. Ambassador Wisner, who is also scheduled to arrive at Camp Crame. Aside from the ambassador, there were also several officials from the U.S. Embassy and military group who attended the press conference. [passage omitted]

Nazareno added that Barnes has indicated he was treated fairly well by his captors. Although Barnes did not talk much, he nonetheless thanked the PNP for saving him from the hands of the terrorist group led by De Leon. Nazareno has also informed the president of Mr. Barnes' successful rescue from a house in Almanza, Las Pinas. He said that the president welcomed this development and commendations will be given to those who were involved in the rescue. [passage omitted]

Here is part of the news conference held earlier at the Multipurpose Hall of Camp Crame:

[Begin recording in English, broadcast in progress] [Unidentified speaker] Okay, it's [Cesar] Sarino [Department of Interior and local government secretary] speaking now:

[Sarino] [words indistinct] was a very successful one [word indistinct]. At 1600 this afternoon, in a private residence in Almanza, Las Pinas, the PNP, under the leadership of the task force commander General Flores, recovered Mr. Barnes. I am very happy that we can now bring Mr. Barnes back and reunite him with his family. I would now like to ask Major General Nazareno to provide you with the details of what happened today.

[Nazareno] Ladies and gentlemen, you can see Mr. Barnes between the two of us, Secretary Sarino and myself. He looks haggard, undernourished; but that is the way he was recovered at 1300 this afternoon in a place in Almanza, Las Pinas. There were simultaneous raids conducted early this morning, today, because the last call that we got or that we monitored on this break-away group, allegedly of the New People's Army, said that it will be their last call.

Although we had an inkling of where Mr. Barnes was being held, we could not be very sure; so we hit several targets. And through the skilled [word indistinct] of the operatives of PNP, Mr. Barnes, in a short hostage situation, was recovered safe and unharmed.

The other details of the operation will be divulged by General Flores and General Villa, the task force commanders of Task Force Gemini, created purposely to operate against organized crime, especially kidnappings, and especially to recover Mr. Barnes. At this point, we will ask Mr. Barnes to make a short statement for the press.

[Barnes] I would like to thank the secretary, the general, the task force that has recovered me today. They were a very brave and very efficient group. I understand that three were wounded in the recovery [word indistinct]. I wish to commend them especially [word indistinct]. I am just very glad to be back, safe and sound. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Two American Teachers Kidnapped in Sulu

HK1803101292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Two Americans teaching in a Manila school are suspected to be among the five female foreigners kidnapped in Sulu on 17 March. It has been reported that the three other foreigners kidnapped at gunpoint in Jolo, Sulu are the wife of an Australian missionary and her two children. The report said that the unidentified kidnappers freed the Australian missionary but retained his wife and children. In view of this, the U.S. Embassy has immediately called for an investigation on this recent kidnapping case, all the victims of which are foreigners. The authorities identified the victims as Lynn Cooke and her two daughters, five-year-old Cherry and two-year-old Elsie. The two American teachers, believed to be teaching in a Manila school, have not yet been identified. Meanwhile, over 400 people have become victims of kidnap-for-ransom in the Mindanao region in the past several years. Most of these were released by their captors after ransom was paid, while others have been killed by their abductors.

Health Authorities To Step Up AIDS Testing

HK1603073292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0721 GMT 16 March 92

[Text] Manila, March 16 (AFP)—The AIDS epidemic in Thailand must not be replicated in the Philippines, Health Secretary Antonio Periquet said Monday [16 March] as authorities stepped up testing to assess the magnitude of the problem.

Periquet said a 2.5 million peso (100,000 dollar) program will shortly "broaden the coverage" of AIDS testing in the Philippines "in order to have a more accurate information about the real extent of AIDS in this country."

Periquet said they have previously tested the so-called high-risk group of sex workers, but added overseas contract workers, intravenous drug users and homosexuals will be included in the tests to begin in June.

Manuel Dayrit, another health department official told a press conference, they plan to conduct random blood testings in 50 sites nationwide, and that "within the year, we would be able to tell you more specifically how big the problem is."

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a disease that breaks down the body's immune system, making it susceptible to ordinary infections.

Periquet said some 306 people are known to be infected with the AIDS virus in the Philippines, and that 62 full-blown AIDS cases have been documented. He added that actual AIDS cases could be higher.

He said the Philippines must not replicate the experience of Thailand which originally thought the number of AIDS infection was "inconsequential," adding that when a survey was conducted, the figure topped 300,000.

"It was not really an explosion (in Thailand) in the sense of suddenly 300,000," Periquet said. "They were there all the time, they just didn't know.

"We don't want that situation occuring here," Periquet added.

Asked if it was possible that the number of AIDS cases could be similar to Thailand after the nationwide testing, Periquet said: "It is hard to answer that categorically, but it may be not unlikely."

Dayrit said "it's possible that it may be like in Thailand but we hope it is not. But until we do this surveillance, we cannot really give you the real picture."

Dayrit added the Philippines has fewer "commercial sex workers" and intravenous drug users compared to Thailand, although it has more overseas contract workers who are believed to be major transmitters of the AIDS virus.

Thailand

Army To Solve Burmese Intrusion 'Peacefully'

BK1803091692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] The Burmese intrusion into Thai territory along the Thai-Burmese border has posed no serious problems. Thai authorities have actively been performing their duties to prevent the intrusion by Burmese troops. If an intrusion occurs, however, Thailand will solve the problem peacefully. Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit Na Songkhla made such statement to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Charoenchit in progress] ... There are often clashes between Burmese Government troops and Karen rebel forces during the dry season along the Thai-Burmese border. Burmese soldiers prefer to attack the Karens during the dry season because it is convenient for travelling. Anyhow, we still have to seal off our territory. Regarding the humanitarian aspect, if some people happen to flee from the clashes, they would be regarded as refugees. They would flee into our territory for a certain period before returning to their homeland.

[Unidentified reporter] Has there been any clash that has resulted in the loss of lives of Thai soldiers?

[Charoenchit] No. It is normal that we sometimes have to deter a foreign force from violating Thai territory. Sometimes, they don't even know they have already entered our territory. I have inspected those areas on several occasions. Perhaps, they chased their opponents into our territory without knowing where the borderline was. Whenever someone tries to cross the border, we would try to stop them and warn them not to do so. But, in some cases, both sides do not know who is who, especially during the night. That is why a clash occured.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the latest situation? Will there be any measures to rectify it?

[Charoenchit] The measure we have taken is to safeguard our territory along the border at all time. We would deal with the refugees on a humanitarian basis, but would not allow any intruders to violate our territory. We would tell them and try to stop them from intruding our territory by peaceful means. [end recording]

More Cambodian Border Points To Be Opened

BK1803030692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Thailand will open two permanent border-crossing points along the Thai-Cambodian border. They are at Ban Khlong Luk, Aranyaprathet District, Prachin Buri Province and at Ban Hat Lek, Khlong Yai District, Trat Province.

The opening of the two border points won the Cabinet's approval in its weekly meeting on 17 March. The reasons for the approval were that the international political atmosphere has proceeded positively; the Thai private sector is interested in trade; the internal political situation in Cambodia has progressed towards peace; and the political relations between Thailand and Cambodia have improved to a certain level.

Finance Ministry Predicts Budget Surplus

BK1603031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 92 p B1

[Text] The Finance Ministry has predicted a budget surplus of Bt [baht] 5.5 billion for this fiscal year in anticipation of a quick economic rebound.

Suphachai Phisitwanich, deputy permanent secretary of the ministry, said the government is confident that revenue collection will be on target during the current fiscal year in light of the balanced budget of Bt460.4 billion for expenditures.

Revenue collection in fiscal 1992 from October 1991 to September 1992 is forecast to grow 4.5 per cent from the previous fiscal year.

He cited stable oil prices and a tendency towards lower interest rates as the principle factors supporting a budget surplus, which also may arise because of delays in drawing funds for some projects.

He said the tax restructuring carried out by the Anan government in the form of personal and corporate income tax cuts, the import tariff cut and the value-added tax would help stimulate investment and economic growth, which is forecast at 8.1 per cent.

Despite several tax reductions, he expressed confidence that the expenditure budget will still be in the black.

Previously, the Bank of Thailand forecast a surplus of Bt43 billion in the cash balance for this fiscal year.

The country's fiscal position will be strengthened when the government is able to collect more revenue because of the tax restructuring while its expenditures remain unchanged, he said.

Meanwhile, the government has started preparing the 1993 budget and is forecasting preliminary expenditures of Bt579 billion for the new fiscal year which begins on Oct 1, representing a 26 per cent increase from a year earlier.

The government will increase investment in public infrastructure.

Officials said there could be a budget deficit of no less than Bt40 billion in the new year following three to four years of balanced budgets and surpluses.

Over the next three to four eyars, the government will be spending Bt300-400 billion annually on investment projects to meet the demand for utilities and transport infrastructure.

The government will have to ensure fiscal stability while investment continues to grow by reducing the current account deficit to around 7.4 per cent of the gross domestic product, down from the present 8.2 per cent.

However, there could be a deviation from this policy if the next government opts to emphasize double-digit growth in economic management by increasing government spending.

Under the seventh national economic and social development plan, the government aims to reduce the current account deficit to just five per cent of GDP to enhance fiscal stability.

This target can be achieved when export earnings rise to new heights through increased efficiency over the next five to seven years.

During this transition period, the government needs to maintain cautious fiscal policies.

Suchinda's Political Choices Examined

BK1603020992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Mar 92 pp A1-A2

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, one of the key men behind the 1991 coup, has been increasingly mentioned as someone most likely to become the prime minister of the next democratically-elected government.

But the question is whether he is willing to stake his entire political and military future by quitting the armed forces as required by the Constitution.

With the general election less than a week away, Suchinda has little time left to make up his mind.

There had been speculation that Suchinda would quit his other post of army chief in April to pave the way for his deputy Gen Itsarphong Nunphakdi to rise to the top. It has been reinforced by another speculation that he would also quit the supreme command post for the premiership.

The army has reportedly been divided into two major groups—those wanting Suchinda to take the premiership, and those fearing their boss would eventually be pushed into political oblivion after quitting the military.

"They want the supreme commander to resign only to have him stick out his neck," said Assistant Army Commander in Chief Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon, who was a classmate of Suchinda's at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

"How many (former army chiefs) have had their throats cut (politically destroyed) after being pushed out of the military service? Now they are going to do the same to my current boss," Chamlaeng said.

But those who want Suchinda to attain the premiership also have another ambition—they want leading ranks vacated in the army so they can be promoted, especially in the mid-year military reshuffle, the results of which will be known in April.

These generals were reportedly pressuring Suchinda to resign and accept the premiership, sources in the army said.

The sources said the field commanders were asked to back the pro-military alliance of Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and Social Action parties which are known to be supportive of a non-MP [member of parliament] as prime minister.

When about 300 field commanders visited Suchinda at his residence on March 6 they were seen as demonstrating their "support" for their boss to become the prime minister.

Though several top generals have come out in his support, there are those in the army who are worried that their boss might face strong popular opposition if he accepted the premiership.

The faction wanting him to remain in the military voiced concern that the public was in a "democratic mood" and would accept only an elected person as prime minister.

"If anybody proposes a non-MP to take over the premiership after the election, Sanam Luang, Lan Pothi (on the campus of Thammasat University) and Rajdamnoen Avenue would not be spacious enough for the waves of people who would come out to oppose such a move," Democrat secretary general Sanan Kachonprasat has warned.

As a result, Suchinda seems to be in dilemma about whether to pacify his ambitious subordinates or risk facing popular revolt. He will have to provide a good excuse for these subordinates if he does not want to make an about-face on his political future.

Army sources said Suchinda might initially seek to pacify his subordinates by telling them or leading rumours that he would accept the premiership.

But Suchinda might change his mind and ask the pro-military aliance to back an acceptable choice to the top government post, after having tested the waters until the last minute and finding out it would not be worth risking his political future.

Actually, the army chief, in a way, has been testing the waters.

Suchinda has more than a dozen of times said he would not accept the top executive post. But each statement has always been followed by speculation he would eventually swallow his own words.

Suchinda's strongest statement against accepting the premiership came on Nov 18 at the constitution controversy.

But two months later, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, the air force chief, said Suchinda was the "most suitable person" to become the prime minister. Kaset repeated his remarks last week, further fuelling speculation about Suchinda's future.

Suchinda, who treats politicians with disdain, has avoided discussing serious issues with reporters for three weeks—ever since the embarrassing scandal in Surat Thani. But he had earlier toned down his rejection of the post-election premiership.

But observers said even if major political parties handed him the premiership on a silver platter after the poll, there was no promise of an easy road for Suchinda. Most importantly, he would have to play games politicians lay—haggling over portfolios and keeping coalition parties in line.

Besides, he would also have a lot of explaining to do—both to the Thai public and international community. After all, he played the most important role in the coup and subsequently said so many bad things about politics.

And what about corruption problem which is likely to continue within the next administration?

Suchinda, as a non-MP prime minister, would definitely become a convenient target of attacks by both opposition leaders and democratic-minded groups. His military leadership might prove futile in politics.

Count on support within the army to keep him in power was probably an alternative. That is why Suchinda is said to be seeking assurance that he would not be betrayed after leaving his military service. One measure is to hand over his army post to someone whom he can trust.

Deputy army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, who is also Suchinda's brother-in-law, is considered to be the most suitable person. And Suchinda has said he would choose Itsarphong as his heir apparent.

But didn't Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, now leader of the New Aspiration party and a candidate for the premiership, think the same when he decided to turn over the post of army chief to Suchinda in April 1990?

Suchinda knows there is a lesson to be learned from that.

Political Party Leaders Participate in Forum

BK1603134792

[Editorial Report] Bangkok Television Channel 3 in Thai at 1500 GMT broadcasts a political talk show, "I Am Ready To Become Prime Minister," live from the Central Plaza Hotel's Convention Center in Bangkok. The program—moderated by Phaisan Sicharatchaya, BANGKOK POST editor; Trairat Sunthonpraphat, foreign news editor; and Khothom Araya, secretary general of the neutral committee for monitoring the 22 March general election—is also being broadcast in California for Thai audiences.

Phaisan Sicharatchaya introduces leaders of the eight political parties contending in the 22 March general election who have been invited to participate in the program. They are Montri Phongphanit, leader of the Social Action Party [SAP]; General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of New Aspiration Party [NAP]; Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong of Chat Thai Party; Samak Sunthorawet, leader of Prachakon Thai Party, Chuan Likphai, leader of Democrat Party; Major General Chamlong Simuang, leader of Phalang Tham Party; Narong Wongwan, leader of Samakkhi Tham Party; and Bunchu Rotchanasathian, leader of the Solidarity Party.

Answering the first question regarding his readiness to accept the next premiership, SAP leader Montri says "I am fully qualified for the position because I have the courage to make decisions and to work," adding "The SAP and particularly I believe that Thailand needs people who have the courage to think, perform, and make decisions, not just being a person who is honest but does not dare to do anything." He stresses that he is not afraid of criticism and cites some major decisions which required large financial funding he made when he was in the previous administration, such as the elevated road project, the controversial three-million-line telephone project, and the multi-billion baht skytrain project. He notes: "I respect the constitution because it is the supreme law of the country. But we must accept the fact that no party will have a majority. Thailand has over 70 provinces and people still want stability."

NAP leader General Chawalit cites three factors which qualify him for the premiership, including a "firm belief in democracy, concern about poverty, and strong desire to create greatness for the country."

Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, Chat Thai party leader, reviews his success in his career and says: "I am ready to become prime minister because I already have enough for myself. Once one does not want any more, one will be able to do things for other people." He adds: "Now it is time to think of other people, such as poor farmers and laborers, whom all of us owe a great debt."

Prachakon Thai leader Samak says he has been in political circles for 24 years, during which he served as a minister in five portfolios and held the chairmanship of several important parliamentary committees. He says: "As far as political experience is concerned, I am confident that I have accumulated enough. The problem is that I have not had the opportunity to hold the premiership." He explains that the right timing and support in parliament are important factors for a person assuming the premiership. He says that "with my vast political experience and the ideas I have for the country, I should have an opportunity for the premiership, even if the opportunity is not open for me at this time."

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai asserts that honesty is necessary for a good prime minister. He notes that he held "six ministerial posts, one deputy prime minister post, and the presidency of the House of Representative once." He says he was minister in ministries which had considerable budget allocations, but "I believe that honesty is an essential quality of a politician."

Phalang Tham leader Major General Chamlong says: "My party's analysis of the current political situation is that if an outsider is appointed prime minister, there would be increasingly great opposition from the people and violence comparable to the 14 October incident could result." Before going on to list his accomplishments, Chamlong says: "The most desirable qualifications of the new prime minister in the current situation are honesty, popular support, acquaintance with the military—but no desire to appease, criticize, or destroy it—ability, experience, past accomplishments, decisiveness, and a good reputation domestically and internationally."

Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan says: "In principle, every political party leader is ready to become prime minister. The individual who has been chosen by party members to lead the party must have the potential and ability to apply the party's policy, through the support of voters, to administer the country." He says that having worked with farmers more than half of his life, and as a farmer himself, he is well aware of the problems facing farmers and people. He notes that this knowledge and understanding of the problems in rural areas qualifies him to be the 19th prime minister of Thailand.

Solidarity Party leader Bunchu said the next prime minister must have qualifications including "familiarity with the working mechanisms of the private sectors," "familiarity with the mechanism of the bureaucracy," and "understanding and knowledge of the country's problems and confidence in tacking these problems. I have all these qualifications and experience in all these fields," adding "this is why I am ready to become prime minister."

Asked which party "is ready to be flexible to accept a prime minister who is an outsider," Prachakon Thai party leader Samak says "I am flexible. First, I am in favor of the prime minister coming from one of the elected members of parliament, but if this is not possible he must be an outsider."

SAP leader Montri points out that "everyone must accept the fact that no party will win a complete majority in the coming election." He says while political parties do not wish that an outsider will become the next prime minister, "to insist that the next prime minister must be a product of the election would result in chaos. We must accept the reality of our country. Persistence and taking sides are unproductive. It would be better for all sides to love one another. I am flexible."

Solidarity Party leader Bunchu concludes that "we should use the door that is open and should not try to open the inappropriate one. We should end that practice. Regardless of how many doors are available, I am going to use the one appropriate door. That is, the prime minister must come from the product of the election."

Democrat Party leader Chuan says that "while the constitution leaves the door open, the Democrat Party's stand is that the prime minister must be from the election."

Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong says that "this issue is not flexible, and it would be dangerous for the country. Democracy is by the people and for the people. Thus through several polls people showed that they do not want an outsider but want a prime minister who is an MP [member of parliament]. We must comply with their wish or risk their ever greater opposition."

Asked how many seats each party hopes to win in the coming election, Solidarity Party leader Bunchu says that if vote-buying is effectively discouraged, "the Solidarity Party will win at least 36 seats," adding however that it is impossible to make a meaningful prediction now due to many variables involved from now until election time. Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong says his party will win "a considerable number of seats, but the exact number will be known on 22 March." Phalang Tham Party's Chamlong says that after taking into account attempts at vote-buying and slander from other parties, "if the election takes place tomorrow, my party should win 85 seats." Democrat Party leader Chuan says that after accounting for active vote buyining activities by other parties, his party is fielding 34 former MPs and feels "they will all be elected, in addition to other new candidates." Prachakon Thai leader Samak, after describing his dislike of polls, says that he "would not make any prediction." Chat Thai Party leader Sombun's prediction is "over 80 seats." NAP leader General Chawalit predicts that his party "has said for over a year and will continue to say that it will win 181 seats." SAP leader Montri says: "I am confident that the party will win at least 31 seats, because the party is fielding 34 former MPs."

Asked what ministries each party would particularly like to supervise and assume responsibility for providing they are successful in the election, the SAP's Montri comments that the question is odd, but also notes that "I want to take over the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry." General Chawalit says he wants all ministries but "if forced to choose I will pick the Interior, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Education, and Public Health Ministries." Chat Thai Party's Sombun says "I am ready for any duty, whether in the government or the opposition." Prachakon Thai Party's Samak says that "the country's communication affairs deserve better treatment than they are now getting; I am interested in the Communications Ministry." Democrat Party leader Chuan simply says "I want the prime minister post." The Phalang Tham Party leader says "In addition to the premier post, the ministries which we are interested in are the Interior, Agriculture, Communications, Education, and Public Health Ministries." Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong says he "wants the post of prime minister, while other portfolios will depend on discussions with other parties, because the next government will definitely be a coalition." Solidarity Party leader Bunchu says that this is "a foolish question. There will have to be discussion among the people concerned about what we can do to solve problems. Only after this matter is settled can we proceed with discussions on who is a specialist in what field. My party has specialists in various fields. Actually this is a foolish question which I cannot answer."

Asked which party or parties each leader hopes to ally with in case his party has to join other parties to form a government, the SAP's Montri says "my party can join with any party which has a similar policy, but there are parties whose policies are incompatible with my party," but refuses to name any such party. The NAP's General Chawalit says that "I can join with any party, but let us not talk about which ones at this time." Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong says that "my party's method of choosing partners is to look at the policy of the would-be partners—such as whether they will amend the constitution, grant amnesty for the value-added tax issue, reappoint dishonest ministers—and what ministries my party would receive." Prachakon Thai party chief Samak says that the "formation of government should not be discussed in public. There is a tradition for this kind of belief. No one should discuss this matter in this kind of forum." Chat Thai Party leader Sombun says that "I prefer love and unity. It would be very pleasant if there were a national government working to solve the urgent problems of the people, particularly the farmers."

The political leaders are then asked a question by a Thai journalist in the United States about how they would would strengthen the foundation of political parties if they became prime minister. The NAP's General Chawalit says "first, the government and people must understand that the issue of political parties is very important. It now appears that bureaucrats and the people despise political parties and politicians. Therefore, the people whose duties are to develop the political and the administrative system—which amount to the development of political parties—must kindly lend their support. It is apparent that the subsidy of political parties does not have enough attention in our country. Next, the political parties must resolutely uphold the direction of forming a party with democratic characteristics and that belongs to the people of all strata—in other words, a political party of the Thai masses. This is very important and has many particulars, including issues of political direction and organization. I feel that the most important problem concerns the kind of attention shown by people with administrative authority and duties. The present lack of progress can be attributed to this problem."

Phalang Tham Party chief Chamlong says that "it is essential to promote political parties in such a way that they will have to be honest, not buy votes, not compete against others seeking superiority, not slander other parties, and not seek financial gain. If political parties can do this they will be truly the parties of the country."

Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak says that "if I become prime minister, the government will refrain from domination of every branch of the media. The television and radio must be neutral, and the press will be allowed to exercise its freedom." The political parties, whether pro-government or from the opposition, will be given equal access to the media. This will automatically strengthen political parties.

Solidarity Party leader Bunchu says that "unlike political parties in the United States, those in Thailand are not complete and have no base in the masses. The difference is that the Thai Government does not encourage political parties to work at creating their bases. The organization of the political parties must be regarded as a major organ of the democratic system. In order to promote their progress and correct duties, there must be financial subsidies. Conditions can be set for such subsidies."

Another Thai journalist from Los Angeles asks whether any political leaders have a policy to reduce the number of political parties. Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak says that "it is natural that the more elections are held, the more the number of parties will decline," noting that the number of parties has been reduced from 52 to 16. SAP leader Montri says that "it is not necessary to reduce the number of political parties. There are many parties in developed countries such as Germany and the United States, but their people elect parties which are structured and which have support from every sector spread throughout the country. In Thailand, people are viewed with suspicion if they support political parties. If more elections are held, from the eight parties represented here the people will limit their support to three or four parties." The government will also have to permit open support for political parties so that they will become strong. Democrat Party leader Chuan agrees, saying "the number of political parties must be curtailed to four or five parties such as in democratically developed countries," noting that parties which are formed on an ad hoc basis will eventually fade away after a few elections. He adds that "the frequent occurrence of coups is one of the factors limiting the growth of political parties and creates numerous new parties." Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong says that "the number of political parties depends on the number of votes they receive. There could be 100 parties, but if each party receives only few votes, each will fold. If people vote them into office, the voters' wish must be honored." Solidarity Party chief Bunchu says that the "development of political parties must be allowed to take its natural course. If they could develop without being obstructed by certain elements, they could have progressed a long way by now. Obstruction by certain elements is one of the causes of the large number of political parties we now have."

Asked about solutions to the narcotics problem, Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong says "I support the government engaging other countries, such as Burma and Laos, in agreements that prevent opium cultivation or the importation of narcotics. Opium cultivation in Thailand has decreased significantly as the result of the King's crop substitution program." Democrat Party leader Chuan points out that all drug addicts are former cigarette addicts. "Therefore, the policy to prevent cigarette addiction in young people is correct and must be continued," Chuan says, adding "it is necessary to prevent our people from using narcotics and our campaign must begin with youths and people in occupations that make them susceptible to drug use."

Finally, the issue of the constitution allowing outsiders to become prime minister, the political party leaders are asked whether they will amend the relevant part of the constitution. Phalang Tham Party's Chamlong says "the party feels that this is the central action needed for strengthening democracy. The constitution must be amended urgently." Prachakon Thai Party leader Samak says that "several people were able to live with the previous constitution. If the last coup had not occurred, the previous constitution would have been acceptable today. Why are some people so bothered by the constitution now?" SAP leader Montri says that "I disagreee with amending the constitution to require that the prime minister be an MP. We should leave it the way it is now, but at the same time improve the economy and educate the people to vote for political parties. In the future, it will become automatic that the prime minister will be the product of the election." Democrat Party leader Chuan points out that "while several political parties want to require the prime minister to be an MP, they do not believe that they could find enough support to accomplish this goal by amending the constitution."

Vietnam

Vo Tran Chi Commemorates CPV Anniversary

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[Speech by Vo Tran Chi, Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee Political Bureau member and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, at the 1 February meeting to mark the 62d founding anniversary of the CPV organized at the Ba Son factory]

[Text] Today, our city solemnly commemorates the 62d founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] (3 February 1930 - 3 February 1992) at the time when our party organization and people's strata are actively implementing resolutions of the Seventh CPV Congress and that of the city party organization's fifth congress, while striving to carry out the renovation undertaking set by the Sixth CPV Congress in a vigorous, firm manner and with new impetus and determination.

This year's commemoration is more significant because it coincides with the Vietnamese traditional new year, and especially because the function is held at the Ba Son factory, where the first contingent of the city's workers was formed and the Red Association, the first organization of the city working class, was established before the emergence of the communist party under the gallant and unyielding leadership of esteemed Uncle Ton.

In the warm atmosphere of spring and with firm confidence in the new year, on behalf of the city party organization, I would like to convey to you comrades and people's strata in the city, my kind regards and my best wishes.

Dear comrades,

The Communist Party of Vietnam, founded by President Ho Chi Minh in 1930, was an inevitable historical event in the decisive, protracted struggle of our people to end the colonial yoke, regain national independence, and to attain freedom and happiness. Under the beacon of Marxism-Leninism and Uncle Ho's genius leadership, our party was established, thereby harmoniously combining the working class' revolutionary spirit with our nation's steadfast and unyielding tradition and with the trend of increasingly strong struggle of the revolutionary movement in many colonial states of the world. This ushered in a new turning point leading to the new era of an arduous, protracted struggle of our people.

During the past 62 years, our nation has undergone many great, seething events: the revolutionary upsurge of 1930-31 with the Soviet-Nghe Tinh uprising, the high tide of the Democratic Indochinese Front 1936-39, the general uprising for national salvation that led to the August 1945 victory, the two marvelous wars of resistance against French colonialism and U.S. imperialism which dragged on for more than 30 years and which culminated in the 1975 spring victory that completely liberated South Vietnam and reunified the nation, the building and defending of the socialist fatherland after the liberation, and the renovation which has been implemented from 1986 to the present. Although the party's 60-year struggle was a short time compared to the nation's history of more than 4,000 years, during that period our nation and the world have undergone repeated profound changes. The recent great victory of our people's revolutionary struggle has not only led our country to the new era—the era of peace and construction which was the dream of various Vietnamese generations—but has also provided one of the most important factors for the world people to struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress, thereby helping to completely eliminate the old colonialism and foil neocolonialism a further significant step, thus stopping them from imposing oppression on and exploiting the world people, especially those in underdeveloped countries as they did before.

The party organization of our Ho Chi Minh City was established during the very first days of the party's foundation. Our Uncle left this city in 1911 to seek ways for national salvation and propagated Marxist-Leninist ideologies in the country in the 1920's. Uncle Ton Duc Thang established the first workers' asssociation in the city and led the victorious struggle of the Ba Son shipyard workers in 1925. When the party was founded in 1930, the party central committee established its first headquarters in the city to lead the movement countrywide. The Nam Ky Interzone Party Committee, the Saigon Municipal Party Committee, and the Gia Dinh and Cho Lon Party Committees were established during the first months of 1930. From 1930 to 1939, supported and protected by the people, the party central committee met five times in the city. During the period of a democratic front, the Indochinese Congress was held in the city and quickly spread countrywide. Although the 1940 Nam Ky uprising was not able to take place in the center of the city, it was staged simultaneously in the districts of Hoc Mon, Go Vap, Vinh Loc, Phu Lam, and Trung Huyen (Binh Chanh). This was the largest uprising led by the party before the August 1945 general uprising. On 25 August 1945, the city, together with the entire country, seized the power for the people. After the August Revolution, the city was again the place where the first resistance fire broke out on 23 September 1945 to fight the colonialists and imperialists who returned to invade our country. Then, 30 years later, our people put an end to the long, dangerous, and hard yet extremely glorious resistance struggle for national salvation also in this city on the historical day of April 30, 1975.

The history of revolutionary struggle has clearly asserted the steel-like loyalty of the city people to the party. They have followed the party to stage the revolution to the end. Even during the most dangerous moments, they were still ready to bear the brunt of the struggle together with and for the entire country.

Commemorating the party's founding anniversary, the more proudly we feel about our party and people, the more heavily we are responsible to history, especially at a time when the situation in socialist countries and the international communist movement is undergoing particularly complex and acute changes and when the world revolution is in serious crisis. Yet, since "gold is tested by fire and strength tested by hardship," no matter how complex the current situation is, our party and people always persist in advancing steadily toward the set goal. Since 1986, our party has promptly set forth the renovation line to firmly maintain political stability, correct the mistakes of subjectivism and voluntarism step by step, overcome socioeconomic problems, and continuously advance the country. After more than half a century of struggle, the few years in the recent past might be said to be a time of particularly and unprecedentedly complex and fierce challenges to our party and people. However, it was mainly among these challenges, by grasping our Uncle's guideline of "handling variables with invariables" and the viewpoint of "using the people as a base," we have sailed the revolutionary boat in our country through countless dangerous waves and storms, even though we all have realized that more difficulties and ordeals are still ahead. The seventh party congress recently summarized the profound lessons learned by our party during its long course of leading the revolution, especially in the process of renovating the country. Our party has determined the guidelines for continuing the renovation process and for persisting in the path chosen by Uncle Ho by setting forth the platform and the strategy of economic stabilization and development until the year 2000. Deriving from the combat and construction achievements of our party and people through various periods of fierce ordeals, and from changes and defeats in foreign countries, we self-confidently draw out valuable and practical lessons from experience: To a political party, correct policies and lines will decide the success or failure of the revolution.

At the present time, the renovation line set forth by the sixth and seventh party congresses of our party is a necessity in keeping with the law and the real situation in our country, which aim to remedy the errors and deficiencies of an incorrect pattern used for many years and to advance the country along the correct guidelines. The renovation process, with its profound and positive revolutionary characteristics, cannot take place smoothly. Facts have shown that this is a struggle between old and new, between right and wrong, between independence and sovereignty and dependence, between positive and negative aspects of the market mechanism, and between the socialist regime's nature of working for the people and the bureaucratization of an administration based on red tape and subsidies. As a matter of fact, there is a class struggle in a new form when the party is ruling and has to cope with the new requirements of its own life and the rapid changes in the world situation.

This is a particularly fierce and complex struggle for which many parties have paid dearly because of their failure to correctly assess the situation, to consciously realize the law of development, and to reorganize their ranks in order to overcome the error of estranging the masses until they have lost the confidence of the people with every passing day. Our party once tended to be complacent, subjective, and voluntaristic.

The Sixth CPV Congress has pointed out the disaster of these serious mistakes. It is quite difficult to fully realize or correctly apply the objective laws—especially those related to society—if we fail to firmly grasp reality or cannot overcome dogmatism, thus being unable to carry out tasks in a creative manner. We must admit that, at the beginning, we could not fully realize all the objective laws. Nonetheless, with the spirit of seeking advancement, our party has effectively coped with the situation, promptly realized and perfected step by step the contents of the renovation. To carry out the renovation undertaking, we must firmly grasp various fundamental issues, know how to correctly preserve old things while striving to overcome mistakes, formulate orientations for development, and firmly maintain political security—a prerequisite for development. To implement the renovation, we must firmly maintain our objectives, otherwise we will be easily misled, thus causing serious damage to our tasks. Our party renovative policy was formulated through experiences and lessons drawn from its own mistakes as well as from failure faced by its fraternal parties in order to develop creatively and to advance further. We should not run away from the epochal ordeals, but should make great efforts to overcome them while striving to firmly and effectively improve ourselves. Our party's capability in correctly dealing with two contradictory issues in difficult and complex situations, namely the issue of maintaining its stand and the issue of implementing stratagem, is always a valuable lesson. Our party has advocated the implementation of the market economy. It has adopted a flexible attitude in implementing this stratagem, while firmly maintaining the spirit of independence, sovereignty, and adhering to principle. In the present world situation, we should not shut our doors to isolate ourselves. Yet, we cannot replace our socialist system with the imperialist one to gain some charitable aid and become a dependent state. Under the complex situation in which negative and positive phenomena exist, the party must uphold its political capability while each party member must enhance his awareness in developing the revolution in accordance with the renovative policy so as to actively cope with all circumstances in an unshakable and creative fashion of a pure communist.

Second, there is the relationship between our party and the nation. Our party is a vanguard organization of the Vietnamese working class and an outstanding son of the Vietnamese nation. The party is the vanguard unit of the working class and the entire society. This characteristic is not contradictory because the interests of the working class and the nation are the same. As a result, in various revolutionary stages, since the establishment of the party, the motto of national independence and socialism designed by the party is always the banner strengthening unity among millions of people and mobilizing the masses throughout the country to participate in the revolution in accordance with the party line. The history of our revolutionary struggle shows that only by "winning the heart of the nation" will a political party be able to really lead the nation and bring victory to the revolution.

The lesson of "winning the heart of the nation" of a political party, in essence, is the close relationship between the party line and its cadres and between party members and the masses. In the history of our nation, we have firmly maintained this fine tradition. In face of the vitality of the nation, our leaders and the masses have always maintained their unity. This is also the decisive factor in the process of building and defending the fatherland of our ancestors. The Hung kings, during the period of building the nation, joined hands with the people to plant crops and hunt for a living. Such national heros as Tran Quoc Tuan, Nguyen Trai, and Nguyen Hue said that "upholding the people's strength is a way to build a firm base." Various outstanding leaders in the ancient time understood the people's role in history and highly appraised contributions made by ordinary people. Uncle Ho and our party have inherited this concept, thus teaching our entire party the great lesson of "taking the people as a root." This is the main characteristic of our party and the key content of profound humanism. To extend love, respect, and make devotion for the people's happiness is one of the main features of Ho Chi Minh thought. This is an outstanding concept that has integrated our people into one group during the past four centuries. As a result, despite being divided into the North and the South for hundreds of years, our Vietnamese people's aspiration to reunify the country remains the same. During more than six decades of arduous struggle with repeated brutal attacks by the enemies, members of our party have "firmly maintained the struggle impetus," as mentioned by comrade Tran Phu, the first general secretary of the CPV, before he passed away. Thanks to its loyalty to the national tradition and its unity with the masses, our party has successfully multiplied the national strength as well as its own strength. The Seventh CPV Congress resolution has upheld "human factor as the nucleus." The recent National Assembly session has made public the draft amendments to the constitution to solicit the people's ideas in accordance with the spirit of respecting human and citizen rights, a new progress in implementing democracy. This essence is one of the contents of our party's renovation policy and the content of the national and class banners which are closely associated in the present stage.

The third is the lesson on the international spirit of the working class. Enemies of socialism have been soliciting the narrow-minded and selfish nationalism with the hope that they can use it as a force to destroy the internationalism of the working class. They are wrong! At the moment, they can temporarily exploit the shortcomings of an inflexible and dogmatic model of the narrow-minded nationalism for the implementation of their "peaceful evolution" in some socialist countries, but in the long run, the narrow-minded nationalism is certainly not perpetuated.

Our party uses Marxism-Leninism as its ideological foundation and endorses the historic role and international characteristic of the working class and oppressed people in the world. Our party, with the contributions of Uncle Ho and Uncle Ton, is the most beautiful and typical symbol of the international proletariat spirit. "The whole world is considered as a family, all proletariat are brothers." Deeply sympathizing and ready to share miseries shouldered by the working class and oppressed people in the world, Uncle Ho took part in revolutionary movements in several countries and he was one the founders of the Communist Party of France in the 1920's. Totally supporting and determined to protect the October Revolution and the young Soviet Union Government, Uncle Ton put up a revolutionary flag on the Black Sea battleship. We can recount many cases of the noble international spirit marked by our comrades in enemies' jails in Con Dao, in tiger's cages, or before being executed. We are proud that our party knew how to inherit and develop the correct patriotism and combined it with the quintessence of mankind to construct a party with a brilliant international spirit.

The fourth is the duty of party building. The birthday of the party is a landmark for everyone to look back to the process of the party building. The lessons on party building in the last 62 years are plentiful and diversified. They focus on the two factors: the revolutionary characteristic and the vanguard nature of the party.

Our party is a ruling party, thus, at first, it must correct itself and obtain a good theory to serve as a foundation for the party's correct policies and to conform with natural objective laws so that the party is able to lead the entire society to the advancement level of the current era. Party members and cadres are not inactive public servants but they must be good at political knowledge, able and moral, and winning the trust from the public. Some party members do the opposite of what they tell people to do. These people have no communist character at all. Following a revolutionary ideology means to liberate people from misfortune, misery, poverty, and oppression and to provide them with a happy and worthy life. This is the wish of everybody who joins the party.

At present, when the party is leading the government and when the economy is changing to a market-mechanism, the communists must have enough courage to fight against selfishness, practical lifestyle, profit-seeking, embezzlement, waste of state property, pleasure-seeking, power clinging, and abusing the people. Unfortunately, the moral concept "worrying before the people, enjoying after the public," the words "sacrifice," "devotion," and "selflessness" are mentioned less than "benefit" and "fame." Quite a few cadres and party members have fallen into the abyss of individualism, selfishness, and degeneration without feeling any remorse. Definitely, many people have not realized that our party, emerging from a base of small economic production, facing capitalism, and having gone through fierce challenges and struggles, must be strictly sifted in order to exist and develop.

If the party members are not self-concious, despite their trial by warfare, they are not exempted from demoralization. They may degenerate even quicker and more severely than other people when they hold higher positions and more power.

The situation of degeneration in party and state organs has reached an alert level. Therefore, the emendation of the party is an urgent task. We must build, at all cost, a contingent of clean party members with stable political knowledge and good management skills. And they must apply party lines and policies as a foundation to unite the party and the public to create a force that will lead the renovation undertaking to success.

On the other hand, if we let the corruption, bureaucratism, and authoritative mannerism prolong in the party and state's organizations, the people will get upset and the party will loose its groundwork to mobilize the public to implement the party's lines and policies. Inside the party, if we do not severely punish the degenerates and if we cloak or tolerate the depraved, irresponsible members, then we create an excellent base for the opportunists to start their cheating work, seize power, and destroy all the works of the party and people.

After discovering the depraved, the degenerate, and the opportunists in party organizations and eliminating them from the party, we can keep the party strong and the party can keep the vanguard flag in its leadership. In order to do that, we have to rely on the public and motivate the people to join the party in the job. The public has hundreds of ears and thousands of eyes, they will contribute their opinions and do the work together with the party provided the party can prove its determination so that the public can believe that the party really wants to improve itself.

We should carefully review our party building activities over the past 62 years in order to draw on profound lessons of experience. Given the current situation, our party in general and the party organization of the city in particular should voluntarily rectify and renovate themselves if they are to restore the people's confidence in them. As Nguyen Trai [a Vietnamese historical figure] put it: "It is the people who themselves can either help keep a boat floating or cause it to capsize." The people's strength is invincible. The party should be really strict toward itself if it wants to build a contingent of clean and competent cadres to deserve the people's love and confidence. The people in the city have a tradition of following the party since the days when it was still in its nascent stage. They have supported and protected the city party organization and its cadres and members during the most difficult times. The city supreme command was nurtured and protected by the people of the city during the early years of its founding. Everywhere, from Hoc Moc and Ba Diem to the 18 hamlets of Vuon Trau, from the city suburbs to various urban areas and factories, the people of the city loved the party just as parents did their children. At present and in the future, while moving forward, our party can hardly avoid errors and shortcomings. However, if we carry out party building in accordance with Ho Chi Minh thought and correct ourselves, the party will be able to win the people's hearts and generate the strength of the entire nation with which to surmount all ordeals regardless of how great and acute they may be.

At present, the country's political task is posing many very heavy duties for us. They call for continued carrying-out of renovation in a more harmonious and steady fashion at a time when the country's socioeconomic situation is still caught in a crisis, and when East European countries and the (former) Soviet Union have disintegrated. Imperialist forces and those forces hostile to us at home and abroad have spared no schemes and tricks to intensively sabotage us on various fields. But with the experience of the party and its persistent fighting tradition over the past 62 years and with the blood-and-flesh-like relations between the party and the people which have stood the test of time since the party's founding, and with the creative line already reaffirmed in the recent Seventh Party Congress, it is certain that together with the people, our party will continue to struggle to surge forward and firmly defend this country and this regime so as to deserve being a loyal successor of so many preceding comrades and compatriots who have sacrificed their lives for the fatherland and for the socialist cause.

By remaining firm on the path already chosen by Uncle Ho, developing to the fullest our indomitable willpower and our spirit of independence and sovereignty, relying on our own strength, and diversifying our international relations in keeping with our open-door policy, we will be able to mobilize all the enthusiasm, forces, and wisdom of the people and to exploit their potentialities to make the people prosperous and the country strong in a faster and steadier fashion.

The rapidly changing situation, although fraught with traps, is presenting new opportunities and propects. In its long militant history, our party has obtained many valuable experiences on how to create and seize opportunities. Now more than ever before, our party should surge forward and should constantly surge forward. To achieve this aim, it should renovate itself in all aspects and should further improve its shrewdness, wisdom, abilities, and qualities to bring itself up to the level of its new tasks and to meet various objective demands of everyday life.

When still alive, Uncle Ho had the only ultimate desire to see all of our compatriots adequately fed, clothed, and educated. This ultimate desire of Uncle Ho should definitely be that of our party. Only with this desire will party members feel bitter at failing to care for the people and the country and will they find joy in their efforts, no matter how small they may be, to alleviate the miseries and hardships now facing our people's lives.

Communism is the spring of mankind. The spring here is in no way a rhetoric or a target that we can never reach. Instead, this target should be gradually materialized in everyday life and should be reflected through the party's affection for the people, its sense of responsibility toward them and its care for them in every way, even the most ordinary and minor things, in their everyday life.

Amid a warm and friendly atmosphere of the spring while we are celebrating the party's anniversary this year, I would like to wish you, comrades, and the people of all strata of the city a New Year full of good health, with new energy and new determination to score ever-greater achievements for the sake of the revolutionary struggle of the party and for the cause of making the people prosperous and the country strong in keeping with the socialist goal.

Vu Oanh Discusses Party Mass Mobilization Work

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[Article by Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau: "Let's Continue To Accelerate the Implementation of Resolution No. 8 To Renovate the Party's Mass Mobilization Work, Strengthen Party and People Relations, and Make a Good Preliminary Review of its Implementation"]

[Text] The party Central Committee has decided to make a preliminary review of the two-year implementation of Resolution No. 8 on renovating the party's mass mobilization work and strengthening party and people relations (by the middle of 1992). However, we cannot simply gather and analyze the data and make a report if we want to have a good preliminary review of the resolution's implementation. We have to intensify guidance and adopt combined measures to implement the resolution more effectively. The most important and decisive measure is to expand the mass revolutionary movement and improve its quality.

The launch of a vigorous mass movement is the last criterion used in evaluating the efficiency of the renovation of party and state mobilization work, and the organizational and operational systems of the front and mass organizations. This is for the execution of all political tasks in the new revolutionary stage. The mass revolutionary movement results generally from the combination of all driving forces, in terms of material and spiritual benefits. This also includes socioeconomic management policies, systems and mechanisms, and all the correct measures adopted regarding ideological, organizational and administrative tasks. Only in successfully launching a mass movement for revolutionary action can we consolidate and raise the party's militancy, consolidate and develop the efficiency of the people's administration. Only then can the front and mass organizations have the environment to consolidate and develop themselves steadily.

The Seventh Party Congress has pointed out that one of the key measures in extricating our country from the socioeconomic crisis is to renovate the political system more fundamentally, methodically, and steadily. This also ensures political stability and creates a basis for national development and progress. Since the Seventh Party Congress, our country's political system has undergone some changes. However, due to the new and increasingly notable requirements and profound and complex changes in the socioeconomic situation, it has revealed many weaknesses. At the second plenum of the Party Central Committee, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi pointed out that its weakest aspect was the failure of the party and state machineries and mass organizations to represent and fully exercise the right to mastery of the people. This is because their system of responsibility is still unclear, their organizational structures cumbersome, and work methods primitive, lacking in order, discipline, and efficiency. Meanwhile, practices such as bureaucratism and corruption remain relatively prevalent.

At present, along with "renovating and revamping the party and enhancing its leadership and militancy" and "further reorganizing the state machinery," it is necessary to simultaneously renovate the organizational and operational systems of the front and other mass organizations.

The strengths of our regime and political system are manifested in our efforts to uniformly renovate these three aspects. We must renovate them simultaneously because they are interrelated, and not just one of them as this is irrational. Realities of the past years have shown that the party cannot renovate itself if there are no efforts to reorganize the state machinery and renovate the organizational and operational systems of the front and other mass organizations. At present, we must improve the state machinery and renovate the party's leadership. We must also intensify the role of the front and other mass organizations in society. At the same time, the mass motivation task of the party and state and the activities of the front and various mass organizations cannot be renovated and brought into play without renovating the party leadership and operations of the state machinery. That is the important premise.

The views to be specifically presented hereunder have stemmed, first of all, from the need to help clarify the party's concepts concerning the objectives and requirements of mass mobilization work in the new stage, the role of the party and state toward mass mobilization work, and the new requirements that have been raised in the organizational and operational systems of the front and other mass organizations.

1. Bring into full play the integrated strength of the party, administration, and mass organizations, and launch a

mass revolutionary movement to apply the Seventh Party Congress' resolutions to daily life.

The party has worked out and affirmed the line, strategy, programs, and targets for the revolution, and the state has determined the economic, social, and cultural orientations and plans for the country. This, however, is regarded as only the beginning of their work. All scientific and organizational abilities and all economic stimulus and social policies, as well as all the necessary systems and laws of the political systems, are aimed at successfully initiating a mass revolutionary movement. Only in a mass movement, or through a mass movement, can party lines and state programs and policies be transformed into actual actions and social efficiency. This is the experience acquired during the period of national liberation and unification, which could be considered as the principle of revolution. Today, as we gradually develop a clear sense of human strategy in the socialist revolution, as well as in national construction and defense, we must understand even more profoundly the role of the mass movement in the renovation process of the country. Only with new policies, new aptitudes, new organizing abilities, and new standards can the party successfully launch and develop a mass movement for the successful implementation of the Seventh Party Congress' resolutions.

At present, the mass movement must be directed at the five basic and important domains of life in our country.

That is the people's movement to carry out targeted economic programs and develop a mulicomponent commodity economy under a market-oriented mechanism and the state's macrocosmic management. Despite numerous difficulties—such as the lack of capital and materials, backward technology, obstacles in consumer market, unstable prices and wages, inadequate laws and regulations, and existing bureaucratism, inconvenience, and overlap in the management apparatus—the masses have developed great initiative in helping each other carry out production and business activities, thus interpreting many signs of prosperity, especially in agricultural production.

Meanwhile, many movements have been initiated or launched by various mass organizations, such as the women's movement for mutual assistance in production and family economic development; the movement to carry out economic development among peasant families, renovate the activities of agricultural cooperative activities, and emulate in increasing incomes and helping needy families; the workers' movement to turn out new products, acquire new techniques, look for new markets, rearrange production, and help each other stabilize life; and the youth movement to excel at production and business, and to assist one another in seeking employment and practicing new professions. Despite the fact that they have not yet been carried out vigorously or extensively and their results are still limited, these movements have demonstrated practical effects. In some localities, people's movements have taken shape under various forms to produce a certain number of goods for a certain corporation with the coordination of mass organizations. These include:

—Engaging the mass movement in cultural and educational development, preserving and promoting national cultural traditions, raising the intellectual standard of the people, and developing manpower and talented men within the country. At a time when there is still some confusion about management policies, development orientations, and investment budgets, a new learning impetus has taken shape among the people and youths. There are grounds to believe that a new source of manpower and talents can be developed if policies are modified or formulated in a more satisfactory manner. To launch a new cultural movement to expand intellect, develop talent, and gain a new educational level in society, we not only have to take pains to invest even more in studying the direction and extent of development, but also have to mobilize budget resources from the state as well as solicit the contributions of labor from the people and society.

—The mass movement to draft and implement social policies; assist each other in surmounting difficulties, improving living conditions, and overcoming calamities; and help disabled and elderly people, those who have no relatives to rely on, or those who have committed mistakes. When Son La and the Mekong River Delta were hit by flash floods we could see a very effective and heartrending movement to voluntarily raise funds for the victims. The Red Cross movement is expanding. The allocation of houses in recognition of meritorious services, other charitable activities, and funds for education or scholarships to help develop talent among young people, are practical initiatives that have been on the increase in almost all localities and many sectors throughout the country.

—The mass movement to maintain security, build up national defense, and combine the working class, peasantry, and military with other forces. We have witnessed many heroic deeds demonstrated by our cadres, combatants, and people in resolutely combatting crimes and maintaining order and security. We must highly appraise the movement to "deserve the title of Uncle Ho's soldiers" in the Armed Forces and the movement to "follow Uncle Ho's teaching" in the people's public security forces.

—The mass movement to instill socialist democracy, develop and safeguard the administration, oppose bureaucratism and corruption, and voluntarily abide by the law and struggle against all acts of lawbreaking. Despite difficulties and complexities, thanks to the support of the people, the movement has grown in momentum to foster democracy and enhance the sense of responsibility of cadres and state agencies. It has also contributed views to criticizing and altering many standpoints and policies of the party and government.

In the mass movement we can see the harmonious combination between the two interests—the common interest of the country and society and the individual interest of the people, youth union members, and cooperative members. Meanwhile, we realize that it is even more necessary to attach importance to creating material premises and ensuring that there are correct and well-defined policies, laws, and state investment. This can be seen clearly by reviewing the movement for production by the peasants since the contract system, based on Resolution No. 10 of the Political Bureau, has been brought into effect. By observing the difficulties and confusion of the mass movement in industry, we can also determine that the causes of these difficulties and confusions reside in policies, technical regulations, and market activites. Therefore, the party and state at all levels and in all sectors must urgently solve these problems. They must also enforce new policies, modify regulations and laws, and create favorable conditions for the people to carry out an extensive movement to renovate the country in every respect, and promote the nation's material and spiritual civilization in the new stage. All localities and sectors must realize that they cannot fulfill all their tasks without the help of a mass movement. What should be criticized is that we have, in the recent past, revealed shortcomings by failing to understand adequately the need to launch a mass movement, as well as by delaying the modification and enforcement of regulations and policies to create favorable conditions for use as the basis for a new step in the development of the movement. When a party resolution is issued we usually focus on seeking a thorough understanding of, and discussing the general viewpoints and guidelines in, that resolution. We do not study it immediately in order to outline a program of action with targets, contents, and policies for organizing forces, devising operational methods, preparing financial investment, and establishing rules and regulations. Many things can hardly be introduced to life or to an extensive mass movement for action if we keep on seeking an understanding of their significance and purposes for too long.

The front and other mass organizations must be combined closely and organically with the mass movement—that is, the mass movement that has been reorganized. President Ho Chi Minh attached great importance to the role of the front and other mass organizations. He said: "In the national democratic revolution as well as in the socialist revolution, the national united front is one of the enormous forces of the Vietnamese revolution." Commenting on various mass organizations, he affirmed: "As the organizations of the people, mass organizations struggle for the people, protect the interests of the people, and serve as a close link between the people and the government."

To ensure that a mass movement exists, the party and state must provide guidance, enforce policies and regulations, and increase the number of cadres and material conditions for the operations of the front and other mass organizations, in order to vigorously develop their role in society.

First of all, it is necessary for all party members to have an accurate conception of the role of the front and other mass organizations. Thoroughly understanding President Ho Chi Minh's thought, the Seventh Party Congress defined the role and tasks of the front and other mass organizations. These are also the objectives and requirements of the renovation of the front and other mass organizations. The political report of the congress specified: "It is necessary to renovate the organizational and operational systems of the Fatherland Front and other mass organizations so that they can truly contribute to fostering democracy, changing society, protecting the legitimate rights of the people, maintaining or strengthening close relations among the party, state, and people, and participating in state management work."

We should study the above points made by the Seventh Party Congress to help clarify the concepts of the role, functions, and tasks of the front and other mass organizations in the new stage:

—The front and other mass organizations must help instill demoncracy and renovate society,

—They must protect the legitimate interests of the people;

—They must participate in state management work,

—And they must firmly maintain and strengthen close ties among the party, state, and people.

Fostering democracy and changing the society is the aim and result of all the tasks and activities of the front and other mass organizations. Every activity and every specific movement must be imbued with this aim.

Meanwhile, the people's legitimate interests which are highly specific, must manifest common interests. These are democracy and the need for a new society. These diversified interests represent the legitimate needs of every person and citizen, as well as the particular needs of each age, sex, and social group, and the different nationalities. Certain aspects of it concern the people's livelihood, their intellectual standards, and rights. President Ho used to say: "Our country is a democratic one. Therefore, everything is done for the benefit of the people."

However, due to the country's present situation, we have to give priority to socioeconomic issues. It is the first and foremost duty of the front and other mass organizations to solve the problem of unemployment, to create more jobs, and conditions for the people of all strata to increase their incomes. Certainly, this is the foremost responsibility and duty of our party and state.

In view of this, the front and other mass organizations must, within the scope of their functions and organizational nature, "participate in state management work" to protect the interests of the people.

We are all well aware that management is a function of the state machinery. So, in what sense should the participation of the front and other mass organization be understood? First, this is the role of the front and other mass organizations in the democratic process of our regime, and second, without participation in management work (depending on the requirements and nature of each mass organization), they cannot protect the interests of the masses.

The participation of the front and other mass organizations in management work is manifested in the following domains:

—They must participate in selecting and developing the contingent of cadres, especially those holding positions that require election. They must, on the one hand, establish the criteria for various positions and on the other, discover and recommend those who are talented and ethical. The failure to seek an adequate understanding of this, the failure to assign this task to the organs responsible for organizational work, or to attach sufficient importance to the role of the front and other mass organizations, has resulted in the things being done just for the sake of formality, with the masses becoming indifferent. There should be coordination among the party, state, and various mass organizations. This is to establish regulations which will ensure that this task will be satisfactorily carried out and that delegates from the front and other mass organizations play their specific roles in the National Assembly and People's Councils.

—They must participate in drafting the constitution, policies, and laws. In so doing, they must study the needs and aspirations of the masses extensively, while accumulating the wisdom of their members and improving their knowledge in specific areas. Together with regulations, efforts should also be made to enable mass organizations to exercise their right to take the initiative in drafting laws. In many localities, the front and other mass organizations at the grass-roots level (operating units or population centers) usually encouraged the people to establish various regulations and conventions. Its aim is to concretize the application of laws and procedures on matters relating to the interests and obligations of the people. It is necessary to promote this idea.

The people and mass organizations should be allowed to supervise the state machinery to help it increase efficiency and overcome shortcomings in operational regulations and methods. Our party and state are facing great challenges. These involve effectively overcoming bureaucratism and corruption. President Ho said: "To oppose bureaucratism and corruption, we must instill democracy." That means we must develop the role of the front and mass organizations even more practically and specifically in this domain. Although we have already had the regulations for people's inspection work, we still have to grapple with confusion in implementing these regulations. This issue is a criterion for a state of the people, for the people, and by the people. That means, through their mass organizations, whether or not the people can achieve what Carl Marx used to think: "Transform the state, the highest organ of society, into an organ that depends completely on society." (Criticism of Goethe's platform) It has also been specified in the party statutes (seventh party congress) that the party is placed under the supervision of the people. Meanwhile, it has always been pointed out in our country's Constitution that power belongs to the people. Nevertheless, enforcing the people's supervision through mass organizations is one channel but not the only channel.

Based on the political system in country, the party assumes leadership over the state and entire society. Therefore, the relationship between the party and people is one of vital significance and a blood-sealed link. This relationship is manifested in the following two aspects: First, the party serves the people and country most satisfactorily and enhances the people's power with its correct lines, scientific and effective operational methods, stupendous machinery, and highly qualifield cadres and party members. Second, the people trust, love, and attach themselves closely to the party; transform the party's lines into conscious, postive, and energetic actions; and always contribute their wisdom to developing the party.

The front and other mass organizations also help ensure the relationship between the party and people in accordance with these two aspects. Along with building up the party, they have the duty to truly make the party firm and strong politically, ideologically, and organizationally. Thus, through the front and other mass organizations, the party must successfully attract the quintessence of the people's wisdom, ability, and quality in every respect to develop itself in such a way to meet the demands of history. The party must be sincere and exert efforts in its practical activities, from the central to grass-roots levels, to overcome what President Ho called: "bureaucratism, which has stemmed from such practices as staying away from the people, feeling contempt for the people, haboring fear of the people, lacking confidence in the people, and failing to understand and love the people" (Ho Chi Minh: Struggle Against Bureaucratism and Commandism). Meanwhile, the party must disseminate propaganda on its lines and policies among the people and launch a movement for conscious actions to enthusiastically carry out political tasks initiated by the party itself.

A bad habit among cadres at present is that when meeting the people and mass organizations at the grass-roots level, instead of behaving themselves like modest students seeking to learn from the people, they act as if they are teachers who know everything. Uncle Ho used to teach us that only by behaving like students to the people can we assume leadership over them. We must further improve ourselves. First of all, we must renovate the contents and forms of relations of the party, striving to make every party organization and every party committee capable of reflecting respect for the role and effect of the front and other mass organization in all domains. Party committee echelons not only maintain relations with the front and other mass organization for the purpose of "making suggestions to matters related to leadership," but also have to pay constant attention to the views expressed by them on the party's viewpoints and tasks that concern the people of all strata.

2. Renovate and increase the efficiency of the party's leadership over mass mobilization work and the front and other mass organizations.

As already pointed out, the fact that the political system in our country is stable and strong is also due to the efforts of the front and other mass organizations to attach importance to enhancing their prestige in society, thus successfully rallying broad segments of the people from all walks of life. Only in this way can the party remain firm and strong. Our ancestors used to say: "Success in national development is owed mainly to winning the people's hearts" (Nguyen Binh Khiem). Experience shows that the failure of many former communist parties in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was due mainly to the people's loss of faith in these parties. To firmly maintain the people's confidence and the party's leading role, the seventh party congress laid down the tasks of "renovating and revamping the party and enhancing its leadership ability and militancy."

We must overcome the error of belittling mass motivation work and the role of the front and mass organizations once the administration has been established. We should take many measures to ensure effective party leadership over the mass motivation work.

The party must study more systematically and adequately the different domains of the mass motivation work and should not stop at political experiences only. Study of the masses and the mass motivation work must be considered a science to constantly substantiate and improve the party's knowledge about this task.

Relations with the masses, working procedures, democratic, and scientific methods must be established for party committee echelons to hold periodic meetings with mass organizations. In addition to these meetings to discuss and guide the activities of mass organizations, party organizations at all levels must institute a system to work with mass organizations, to debate and listen to their views on the major issues of the country and localities, and to encourage initiatives in the form of a specific and perfect project.

After adopting each resolution on the mass motivation work no matter in what social domains, an action program must be established with necessary factors that have been adequately calculated to yield effective and fruitful results. We should not stop at adopting resolutions, viewpoints, and guidelines in a general manner. Only by doing so, can the party control its own responsibilities and other social organizations.

We should assign party committee echelons and competent and good cadres to this task, further train key and trustworthy cadres into leading cadres of mass organizations and movements, and avoid imposition that eliminates the activity and initiative of the masses. We must go step by step to recruit, select, train, and improve the skills of cadres in charge of the party's mass motivation work. The elections of leading cadres by members of the party and mass organizations must be combined with the formation of a contingent of a few but competent experts together with large numbers of collaborators and half-time activists. At the same time, we must pay attention to the establishment of an appropriate system of payment and remuneration.

Party committee echelons must further establish a system for assigning party members to work in mass organizations and must regularly control their performances.

To help provide guidance for this task, we should perfect the civic action machinery from the central down to local levels. The machinery should not be cumbersome but must be compact and composed of some cadres who are capable of performing researching, summarizing, and guiding tasks and who possess knowledge and experience and enjoy some prestige over different objectives among the masses.

3. The state's role in mass motivation work must be intensified.

Once the state machinery has been established, the mass motivation work as well as the organization and operation of the front and mass organizations should be institutionalized. The general trend now is that modern states have placed ever more emphasis on the mass motivation work with every passing day.

The state responsibility for mass motivation work and to the mass organizations is normally manifested in the following three respects:

First, the state must establish laws and regulations to define the role, duty, and authority of the front and mass organizations in the political network and the society and, at the same time, must stipulate its responsibility to mass organizations.

Second, the state policies toward mass organizations should be directed to settling the following issues:

—Investment in those socioeconomic programs in line with the general programs assumed by mass organizations such as anti-illiteracy programs, youth population programs, employment programs, incentive programs for peasants to increase income, help the poor and needy, and so forth;

—Budgetary investment in the operations of mass organizations for cadre training;

—Investment in building the material bases considered the operating tools of mass organizations such as clubs, cultural centers, vocational centers, etc.

—Investment in building research institutes and programs.

Third, necessary state agencies must be established to assume the whole mass motivation work or just an area of the work. Our monistic view of many management responsibilities of the state as one of mass organizations—for example, that the women's union has the same duty as the Ministry of Women's Affairs or the youth union—is no longer appropriate. There is now a Ministry of Women and Families in the FRG and a ministry or a state commission of youth in many other countries which emerge as a new requirement to be met by us without having to increase the personnel staff, but rather by forming a new compact and practically effective organization.

Besides the state responsibility for mass motivation work, there should be statutes to reflect the democratic and popular characteristics of our state machinery when the state considers the front and mass organizations as its fulcrum and political base. The National Assembly, the government, the local administrations and all sectors should establish close relations with mass organizations, and regularly listen to their views and suggestions. There should be forms and measures to promote the role of mass organizations in building the administration, in controlling and supervising the performances of state agencies, and in helping various agencies and personnel quickly detect errors and shortcomings, to increase the effectiveness of the state machinery.

4. The organization and operation of the front and mass organizations must be renovated.

Realizing the role of the front and mass organizations as mentioned above, the seventh party congress clearly indicated the need to renovate the organization and operation of the front and mass organizations to allow them to perform their noble tasks, to enable the party to maintain a better and closer relationship with the people, and to build the mass revolutionary movement on a larger scale and with better quality.

The orientations for renovating the organization and operation of the front and mass organizations which the seventh party congress pointed out, are aimed at helping the front and mass organizations carry out their own renovation process. The responsibility of the party and the state has been mentioned above. The sequence of various issues mentioned here is based on the seventh party congress documents.

a. Renovate the organization and operation along the line of diversification.

The seventh party congress specified: "The organizational forms and the activities of mass organizations must be diversified." We have now seen ever more clearly that this guideline raised at the sixth party Central Committee's eighth conference is correct. There are now countrywide hundreds of different associations and social organizations of national and local scales and even at grass-roots level.

Observing diversity is mainly respecting the objective development requirements of life in our society and the various needs and interests of the people of all strata. In a market-oriented and multisectorial economy of goods production, the demands for work, livelihood, production, and ever more prosperous business not only have required traditional associations to set up ever more fruitful organizational forms, but also have necessitated the reorganization of mass organizations into different professional associations. Moreover, the social, cultural, and developmental requirements and the charity, cultural, sport, and tourist organizations have also become more diversified.

The following three issues should be settled concerning the organizational and operational diversity of mass organizations:

From the political and social standpoints, there are now among mass organizations in our country, some organizations whose political and social characteristics have been clearly defined, such as the Vietnam Confederation of Workers, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Women's Union, the Vietnam Farmers Association, and the Vietnam War Veterans Association. From the standpoints of traditional revolutionary operations as well as of functions, duties and organizational structures, the important political nature of these organizations have been clearly asserted. Yet, in practical operations, more emphasis must be placed on the social problems of the masses. Conversely, although many other mass organizations such as the technology, literature, and arts associations, the press and Red Cross society are merely social, cultural, scientific and charity organizations or associations, their operations are of great political significance.

Diversity also involves the organizational and operational patterns. For example, in the areas of tribal people or in outlying rural areas where the economy has not developed and the society has not divided, diversity must be understood to mean the associations of farmers, workers, youth, and women which must adopt a very simple pattern of life activities. Yet, the pattern can be said to be "diversified" if the organizations do not copy the forms used by organizations in low-lying areas and know how to develop the organizational forms and modes closely connected with the long-standing customs and mores, and suitable to the psychology of the masses.

Diversity is also manifested by scales of organization. Some production, professional or cultural associations can exist only in a primary base (villages, hamlets) or a locality.

b. The organizational and operational renovation must manifest willingness and self-consciousness on the part of mass organizations and reflect party leadership and respect for law. Willingness and self-consciousness are principles of mass organizations. The masses can organize and initiate their own activities to achieve the goals of benefiting their country and families, and to mutually help one another under the party guidance and leadership and as stipulated by law. Respect for willingness and self-consciousness aims to promote democracy and initiative of all members in the organizations, to oppose imposing and rigid guidance and operational control as well as authoritarian administrative management. The people's associations and mass organizations are not the party. As a result, the principle of democratic centralization should not be mechanically used when applying the organizational principle. However, the party's experiences may be applied to those organizations that maintain closer relations with the party such as the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. Due to different requirements, each mass organization may propose additional suitable principles such as: Those organizations of a joint venture nature should consult with one another to unify their action. No matter how these requirements are expressed, the fundamental spirit remains respect for the host role of social organizations and associations, and the mastery role of members of unions, associations and organizations. All undemocratic forms of imposition should be avoided.

c. Renovation should be carried out in the direction of caring for primary installations and members of unions and associations, and of streamlining organizations to make them compact and enhance the capability of their executive and leading machineries. The front and mass organizations have recently strived to go in this direction, but it is still insufficient. A new situation has emerged. After prolonged wars and now under the market mechanism that is showing its effects, the people want to improve their living conditions. Mass organizations should reorganize themselves to direct more useful activities toward primary installations. In many localities, as a result of listening to the people's views and respect for their aspirations, mass organizations have conducted many activities meeting the needs and interests of their members and thus were welcomed by their members. In the renovation project suggested by the central civic action committee, many cadres of central and local organizations have heartily welcomed these guidelines, especially for streamlining the machinery for more compactness and for avoiding dividing the executive committee into several echelons. The initial success of the women's union in rearranging its machinery can be cited as a good example.

d. The trend to put everything under the control of the state and the administration should be overcome. The nationalizing mode is manifested by a monistic desire to reduce mass organizations to a certain number of management functions of the state. The evils of red tape are to provide guidance by orders, circulars and directives. As a result, the machinery tends to be cumbersome and ineffective. On the one hand, we should step by step shape up a system in charge of the state's mass motivation work and, on the other hand, mass organizations should summarize their experiences generally and improve their operational forms and methods to make their activities more lively and attractive.

Mass organizations should have necessary material conditions to carry out their renovation process. In this respect, the party and state must assist mass organizations. The following three major issues should be emphasized:

Renovating the contingent of cadres here means a process to reestablish cadres qualifications to suit the new situation, to retrain old cadres and to recruit additional manpower. We must also settle the problem of pay grades to give proper incentives and the problem of favorably rotating the assignment of cadres, namely youth union cadres. The seventh party congress resolution asserted the need to minimize the personnel staff and expand the forces of half- time employees and collaborators. Cadres of mass organizations must strive to be social activists who have cultural and professional knowledge, suitable occupations and necessary knowledge about market economy along with two basic qualitative factors that are pure political viewpoints and good individual ethics. The civic action committee and mass organizations must coordinate with schools and research institutes concerned to study projects for this important field. Along with conducting the basic and advanced training of cadres, we should promptly solve the problem of remuneration of cadres of mass organizations in villages, hamlets, and primary installations.

The material bases and a system of tools must be intensively strengthened for mass motivation activities. Mass organizations have gradually visualized the need and have shaped up a system of material bases and tools required for mass motivation operations. They are the system of press and publication and other media; the cultural and vocational centers; schools and research institutes, and other primary installations. Such an effective effort is praiseworthy. However, bases in general are still poor and unevenly spread out. The state should provide support for mass organizations to expand and perfect these systems of tools. We should combine dispersed bases of some sectors for reassignement to districts so that each district can have a cultural, vocational, and sport center. The current state of dispersion and lack of coordination in districts should be overcome.

Financial sources should be built for mass organizations. In the current general difficult situation, mass organizations have strenuously sought many measures to compensate for losses of state budget support. In the long range, finances of mass organizations must be based on the following sources:

—State investment: This source has two parts. One part is distributed for administrative needs and the other is investment in various targeted economic, cultural, and social programs.

—Aid programs.

—The most important source must be self-procured through contributions by members of unions and associations, and especially through some economic operations. Mass organizations have recently conducted some successful economic operations even though there were some setbacks which are difficult to avoid. The question is to change and find out appropriate procedures. It should be noted that mass organizations should not let individuals take advantage of the organizations to make profits. Taxes and credits are complex issues to be studied. There have been different petitions asking the government to reinvest taxes from economic operations in mass motivation activities.

To sum up, it is important and urgent to renovate the organization and operation of the front and mass organizations. This process must be a new responsibility of the party and state. Yet, it is mainly the process for the front and mass organizations to renovate themselves.

Le Duc Anh Attends Internal Affairs Congress

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[Text] The Bloc of Central Internal Affairs Organs' party organization held its second round third congress on 10-12 March to review past work and discuss orientations and tasks for its next term. Attending the congress were more than 200 delegates from party organizations of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Justice, the State Inspection Commission, the State Economic Arbitration Committee, the Customs General Department, and the party Central Committee Internal Affairs Department.

Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau attended the congress. The congress spent time discussing the causes and obstacles affecting activities of internal affairs agencies and proposed measures to overcome these shortcomings.

The congress noted that the struggle against corruption, smuggling, and violation of law and discipline in society has not achieved the expected results, while rightist concept is prevailing.

The congress adopted key tasks of the party organization for the days ahead which include efforts to lead party members and the masses to satisfactorily carry out the political tasks of the bloc's agencies. The congress called on the bloc to contribute to building and step by step perfecting the legal system, strengthen the socialist laws, improve the state apparatus, resolutely and consistently oppose corruption and smuggling, perfect the law management mechanism, and seriously deal with crimes and criminals.

Paper Praises Cooperation With UNESCO

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[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—On the occasion of a visit to Vietnam beginning today by Frederieko Mayor, director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, NHAN DAN praises UNESCO's cooperation with and assistance to Vietnam.

The paper says "the Socialist Republic of Vietnam officially joined UNESCO on July 12, 1976 after the reunification of the country. Since then, the cooperation between UNESCO and Vietnam has constantly developed and obtained good results. Over the past 16 years, UNESCO has helped Vietnam in training personnel, and providing equipment and materials to its educational, scientific, cultural and information services.

"UNESCO has also helped Vietnam in restoring and preserving its traditional cultural relics. Particularly during his visit to Vietnam in 1991, the UNESCO director general launched an international campaign for preservation of the cultural and historical relics of the imperial city of Hue.

"In 1980, UNESCO celebrated the 600th birthday of Nguyen Trai, a great Vietnamese statesman, strategist, poet, writer and humanist. In 1987, it adopted a resolution recognising the late President Ho Chi Minh as a culturist of the world and a hero of national liberation and in 1990 UNESCO sponsored the celebrations of Ho Chi Minh's centenary birthday. In response to the campaign for the International Decade of Cultural Development (1988-1997) launched by UNESCO, Vietnam founded the National Committee for Cultural Development Decade aimed at guiding cultural activities and working out a strategy of development for the renovation efforts in Vietnam". "The visit to Vietnam by the UNESCO director general marks a new development in the cooperative relations between Vietnam and UNESCO in the coming years," the paper says in conclusion.